

NEWS IN SUMMARY

'Mountain' of railway arrears

If the Government approved electrification now the railways might not be able to implement it, Sir Peter Parker, British Rail chairman, said yesterday (Michael Bailey). That was because the railways were facing a mountain of arrears in necessary expenditure.

Addressing a rally of rail pensioners at Euston, Sir Peter declared that present railway policies could be regretted in the longer term. British Rail had hit all its targets in the past five years but "we can meet our financial targets and still fail the future".

His warning was echoed by Sir Henry Johnson, a former railway chairman, he said that with the most cost-effective railway in Europe Britain was failing to apply consistent policies and investment. The public were getting angry and railways were being blamed.

Appealing to the Government to help the railways after the recent "shattering setback", the chairman of the pensioners, Mr Frank Hick, a former railway operator, said: "We have watched with great sadness the current dispute and tearing apart of our railway inheritance."

MPs to protest against Reagan

A group of Labour MPs yesterday announced plans to dub President Reagan "an enemy of peace" during his visit to Britain in June. They have formed a Reagan Reception Committee, already backed by Mr Wedgwood Benn and more than 30 other Labour MPs, to organize protests during his visit.

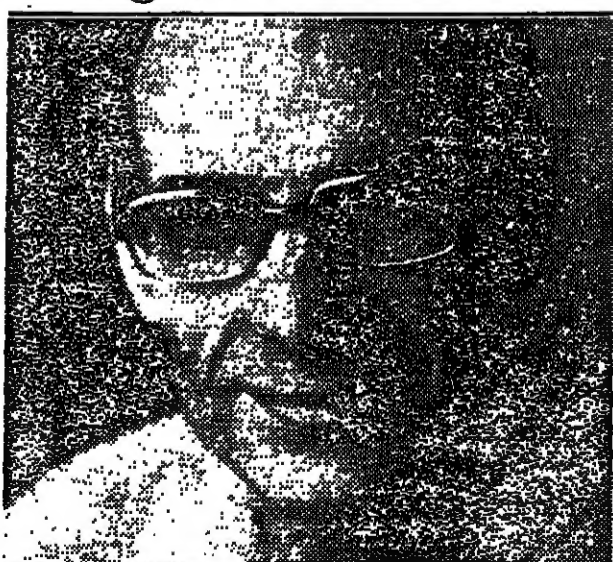
MPs are expected to join pickets against the President at Heathrow, Windsor Castle and the United States Embassy. When he is received by both Houses of Parliament on June 8, the "reception committee" plans an alternative meeting in Parliament's grounds and committee rooms.

Mr Ernest Roberts, the committee chairman, said in London the group did not regard the American people as an enemy, but that Mr Reagan was "an enemy of peace". His meeting with his wife and children was to avoid a war in his own backyard, Mr Roberts, MP for Hackney, North, and Stoke Newington, said.

Benefit cut for school-leavers

Up to 350,000 families will lose child benefit this summer under new regulations affecting school-leavers. Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced yesterday that child benefit will be withdrawn for any school-leaver getting either a place on a Youth Opportunities Programme or a full-time job during school holiday periods (Pat Healey writes). In a written answer yesterday Mr Fowler said it was difficult to justify continuing payment of child benefit for young people who got full-time work during the holidays.

Hugh Jones is incurable.



He's planning his autobiography.

Hugh Jones was married and successful in his career as a sales representative when he contracted multiple sclerosis. The symptoms took some time to develop, but now he is one of our patients, confined to a wheelchair. His mind, though, is as keen and active as ever—he studies with the Open University, writes poetry and is planning an autobiography which he hopes will encourage other sufferers from multiple sclerosis.

We have over 270 incurable patients to care for. We cannot cure them. But we can help them. Skilled care can help them surmount their disabilities as much as possible, and can help them lead as full a life as possible. But we, too, need help. We are not part of the Health Service and we rely a lot on the generosity of the compassionate. Please help us with a donation, a deed of covenant or a bequest.

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL & HOME FOR INCURABLES, (Putney and Brighton), Dept. T2, West Hill, Putney, London SW15 3SW. Patrons: HM The Queen and HM The Queen Mother. Director of Appeals and Publicity: Air Commodore D. F. Risson, OBE, DFC, AFC.

Power engineers dash hopes for strike pact

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

Prospects of the present Government negotiating a no-strikes agreement with the bigger public sector groups when delegates of the Electrical Power Engineers' Association, whose 38,000 members control supplies to the National Grid, voted overwhelmingly "not to enter into any agreement with the employing boards that removes the right to strike."

The move came as the union's conference in York was told by Mr John Lyons, the general secretary, that industrial action was "very possibly unavoidable" if the Electricity Council failed to maintain pay differentials enjoyed by engineers and managers over the industry's 90,000 manual workers.

The power engineers' association, one of the most powerful and moderate of TUC-affiliated unions, is thought to have been almost the only one to take up informally the idea of a no-strike deal when it was floated by the Opposition during the 1978 to 1979 "winter of discontent."

Only a few hands were raised yesterday against to call to oppose such a pact, proposed by Mr Tony Aldous, of the union's headquarters branch. Mr Aldous said it would be wrong for the union "to sell the right to strike for 30 pieces of silver."

Backing the anti-pact motion, Mr Lyons said: "We have never set out to hold the country to ransom over greedy pay claims. However, when you see how the employers behave when you have the right to strike, how do you imagine they would carry on if you were without it?"

No legal arrangement

Firm seeks to regain factory

By Clifford Webb

Messey Ferguson will apply to the High Court today for an order to regain possession of its Coventry tractor plant from striking pickets who have barricaded themselves inside and refused to admit management and staff for the past week.

Summons were served on shop stewards and members of the strike committee at the factory gates yesterday. A company representative also announced through a loud hailer that application was being made to a judge in chambers today under Order 113 of the Rules of the Supreme Court. That deals with the recovery of premises from squatters. None of the unions involved is likely to contest the company's action.

It will be the third time in seven years that the Canadian-owned company has had to go to court to recover Europe's biggest tractor plant from worker occupation. In 1975 the management were shut out for six weeks before the strikers were ejected.

could embody a no-strike provision at the same time as protecting the earnings of the union's members, he said.

Mr Aldous told delegates that while the Conservatives had not since assuming office come up with any firm proposals for a no-strike pact he believed they might do so in the next year or so in an attempt to buy popularity before a general election.

Opposing the motion, Mr Peter Randall, from Reading, said that the strikes weapon had come to be seen as a "sort of trade union virility symbol" and added: "Are we ever likely to use it, and if we do will it be effective?"

Mr Lyons's warning that industrial action was possible in the near future came during a debate about the Electricity Council's two-month delay in making a pay offer to engineers and managers who earn between £5,635 and £23,150 per year. The association fears that differentials over manual workers will be eroded to maintain the gap between the top of their pay scale and the £23,500 earned by the lowest-paid area board members. Mr Lyons said that engineers and managers were becoming "the meat in the sandwich" between board members and manual workers.

Mr Nigel Lawson, Secretary of State for Energy, who cancelled a visit to York because of yesterday's emergency cabinet meeting, escaped what would almost certainly have been a rough ride from delegates angry about the dismissal of Mr Glyn England, chairman of the Central Electricity Generation Board, and about the Government's plan to sell part of the electricity supply industry.

Mine strike threat to save pit

By Paul Routledge

Industrial action that could spread throughout the mining industry is being planned over the fate of a single pit in the militant Kent coalfield.

Area leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers have drawn up plans for an immediate 24-hour strike if the National Coal Board does not approve a £3m development scheme to keep open Snowdown colliery. Snowdown, which employs 850 men producing 300,000 tonnes a year of valuable coking coal, was one of 23 pits scheduled for closure under the coal board's accelerated shutdown programme that was abandoned a year ago in the face of a national strike threat.

Coal board mining engineers agreed then to investigate possible reserves below the existing seam, which is nearing exhaustion, and they have discovered a rich measure ranging from 5ft to 8ft in thickness, just 40yds farther down.

An application to go into those reserves will be considered on April 22, and the miners hope that the development scheme will be approved. If it is not, and the pit is put back on the closure list, Kent area miners will stop for an undisclosed period to attend "action meetings" at which proposals to extend the stoppage will be discussed, and almost certainly approved.

Mr Jack Collins, secretary of the Kent area miners, said yesterday that an extended stoppage in the coalfield would be spread rapidly to other areas through flying pickets.

Kent miners will also seek the backing of the union's national executive under its new president, Mr Arthur Scargill, who was elected on a "no pit closure for economic reasons" ticket. Miners sponsored MPs would also be asked to give the report.

The miners of Kent are the first to attempt to halt the coal board's closure programme at local level.

Mr Howells emphasized that the Labour Movement for Europe is committed to comradeship and partnership with all democratic socialists in Europe. "It is now clear from the policies being pursued in France that our economic programme in no way conflicts with our membership of the EEC," he said.

Mr Vaughan said: "The prosecution have tried, in my submission vainly to establish that this young woman was a participant in the damage. They seek to say the fact that she went there in the car with someone involved and that she had met them in a pub is evidence of intent and participation. And it is not evidence of intent."



Mr and Mrs Duncan: 'It's a dream coming true and worth every penny'

Third time lucky for test-tube mother

It could be third time lucky for the wife of a Coventry schoolmaster who is expecting test tube twins. For Mrs Satwinder Duncan, aged 24, whose husband Mr Carlton Duncan, is the deputy head of Sidney Stringer Community College in Coventry, was unsuccessful with two previous attempts at the Cambridgeshire clinic of Mr Patrick Steptoe, pioneer of the test-tube baby technique.

Now a hospital scan has confirmed that Mrs Duncan, married for five years, will give birth to twins early in September. She said yesterday: "It's delightful news and a dream coming true. I will have three."

The couple, who live in Aldbury Rise, Coventry, recently adopted a boy aged three. Mr Duncan said: "The first two implants cost £1,600 each and the final one £1,800. But it is well worth every penny."

Later this month he takes over as

headmaster of a 1,000 pupil school in Bradford.

The Steptoe clinic is maintaining its usual confidentiality by refusing to discuss whether there are any other test-tube twins on the way in Britain.

Only a small proportion of the attempts to implant a fertilized ovum in the uterus are successful. (Our Medical Correspondent writes). In order to increase the likelihood of success some gynaecologists are now using more than one ovum at a time. This will result in a higher than normal incidence of twins. More than one attempt can be made at implantation but each requires the patient to be admitted to hospital for ten days for laparoscopy and other checks. As the cost on each occasion in the private sector is about £2,000 financial rather than medical considerations are likely to be the prohibitive factor.

Labour group praise for TUC Europe view

By George Clark

The prospects of Labour's policy on withdrawal from the European Community being influenced by the more realistic attitude now being adopted by the TUC general council are discussed in a pamphlet, *Labour Prejudices and Reality*, published yesterday by the Labour Movement for Europe.

Mr Denis Howell MP for Birmingham, Small Heath, and Labour frontbench spokesman on the environment and sport, says in a preface that as the research departments of the party and of the TUC begin to assemble the facts, a disturbing difference of approach is found.

"Labour gives the impression of rushing in with every intention of justifying the decisions already taken," he writes. "Fortunately, the TUC seems to be asking all the right questions about options and alternatives, so essential if we are to state with clarity and conviction the means by which British jobs can be maintained and British prosperity assured after we have left the EEC."

The pamphlet argues that withdrawal could push unemployment up to five million, due to a loss of export trade and of investments, and disagrees with the claim by Labour opponents of the EEC that Labour must take Britain out of the Community if it is to pursue the alternative economic strategy.

"These arguments are based on ignorance, xenophobia and a blind refusal to accept facts," it states.

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"The prosecution are trying to say she can't do her job as a reporter, who goes to the scene of a crime, albeit knowing it was going to be committed, stands and observes it being committed and does a draft report on those facts — is that an offence?"

Many reporters are present and are tipped off beforehand that a potentially illegal act is going to be committed. We are concerned with the basic principles of the press freedom. The public have the right to accurate information and fair comment. She was reporting the event as accurately as she could. She was exercising her right to do that in a democratic society."

Co-op faces boycott for hunting ban

By Hugh Clayton

The British Shopping Sports Council decided yesterday to boycott all shops, bank branches and other trade outlets in the Co-operative movement. Voting at the closed meeting in Westminster, London, was unanimous.

The boycott was designed as a gesture of support to hunters which face growing pressure from their opponents. Mr John Farr, Conservative MP for Harborough and chairman of the council, believes that all rural sports that involve killing are at risk.

The National Rifle Association was the only one of the 11 member organizations of the council not to attend yesterday's meeting. The others all supported Mr Farr's emergency motion calling for a ban.

The boycott was aimed at the Co-operative movement because of a ban on hunting which will be imposed in June on the 30,000 acres of land owned by the Co-operative Wholesale Society. A spokesman at the headquarters of the society in Manchester said that the boycott would be imposed because the Co-operative Bank and the 170 retail societies which owned all of the movement's shops were independent of the wholesale society. Some of the retail societies owned rural land which would not be affected by the hunting ban to be imposed by the wholesale society.

The wholesale society had received letters from supporters of the hunting ban who said that they would increase their custom at Co-operative shops, the spokesman said. The ban does not apply to shooting rights on Co-op farmland.

The decision to mount a boycott of the Co-operative movement has caused fear among supporters of rural sports that they have failed to meet the challenge posed by organizations like the League Against Cruel Sports. The league has campaigned for a ban on hunting on land owned by Berkshire County Council and failed narrowly last week to win a ban in the heartland of foxhunting in Leicestershire.

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Challenge of SDP in local polls

By Richard Evans and David Walker

Two-thirds of the 2,300 SDP candidates fighting next month's local government elections have elected to contest an election before, it was disclosed yesterday.

With the Liberals providing a similar number of candidates, the two-party Alliance is fighting nearly all the town hall seats which will be decided by voters on May 6.

Mr John Cartwright, SDP MP for Greenwich, Woolwich, East, party spokesman on local government, said at the start of the party's first large-scale electoral campaign yesterday that many of the SDP candidates with little political experience "were diving in the deep end".

"These elections will be a major test for our organization because we cannot concentrate in the same way as we can for parliamentary by-elections. Many of our candidates have never fought anything before. Many of our agents have never been agents in an election, so everybody is learning."

"It is very much a dress rehearsal for us. It is experience which we very much need in terms of the coming general election. We regard it as a searching test of our organization," he said.

The SDP has held training sessions attended by about 1,000 candidates and agents. Mr Cartwright said he was disappointed that only 15 per cent of the SDP candidates were women, but was encouraged by the number of people from ethnic minorities contesting seats for the party.

Social Democrats have agreed a joint policy with their Liberal partners in many areas and their slogan for the campaign is, care about people, care about costs.

"We want to try to give local government back to the people; to make it more relevant, more caring, and to bring it closer in touch with the people it is there to serve, while at the same time trying to deliver services in as efficient and low cost way as we can."

"That means challenging everything that has been done in local government. The fact that so many of our candidates are new to local government is a plus factor. They will go in questioning and challenging everything and trying to find better and cheaper ways of providing services," Mr Cartwright said.

The SDP wants to restore public confidence in local government which, it says, has been undermined by the attitudes and policy of central government as well as the actions of extreme Labour councils.

Schools peace

A teachers' dispute that had lasted for six weeks in the London borough of Barking during the education of thousands of children, was settled yesterday. Schools will be back to normal when the summer term begins on April 19 after an agreement between the National Union of Teachers and the Labour-controlled authority which had agreed to restore 100 of 152 teaching posts due to be axed.

'Disastrous' to reduce junior doctors' posts

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

A reorganization of the health service so that all patients were looked after by consultants and there were fewer junior hospital doctors, would be as disastrous for the services as the last reorganization in 1974, the Royal College of Physicians said yesterday.

The number of hospital consultants should be increased but not at the expense of junior doctor posts, as the Government was planning, a report from the college said.

Government plans to cut junior hospital doctors, if implemented, would mean that family doctors, who have to work for a period in hospitals before becoming general practitioners, would not be properly trained in children's medicine because there would not be the training posts available.

With fewer junior staff, consultants would also have to endure indefinitely the restrictions on personal life that juniors accepted for a limited period in order to become fully trained and experienced.

The college was replying to the Short report, produced

Democrats ballot on election method

By George Clark

Ballot papers will be circulated today to the 78,000 members of the Social Democratic Party to collect their views on the method of electing the party leader, on the representation of women on the council of the party, and for the ratification of the draft party constitution.

There is an extra ballot paper seeking approval for bringing forward the date of electing the leader from November to June, 1982.

Members are asked to choose between three methods of electing the leader: 1. If there is more than one nomination, the leader should be elected by postal ballot of all members and there should be a mandatory review of the system in three years; 2. The election should be by ballot of the SDP members of Parliament; 3. The leader should be elected in the case of any election before the next general election, by postal ballot of all members of the SDP, but after the general election it should be by ballot of the SDP MPs.

The area parties sponsoring the options give a summary of their reasons. The Newcastle upon Tyne party, putting forward the first option, says: "The leader will set the direction, style and public image of our party. He or she must have the widest appeal to the party and the country. We believe that 78,000 members are better judges of that than an electoral college of MPs."

The Hounslow party, proposing the second method, says: "The SDP wants to strengthen Parliament. It will not do so by taking the choice of its parliamentary leader out of the hands of members of Parliament." To suggest that the leader, and possible Prime Minister, should be chosen for the SDP more caring, and to bring it closer in touch with the people it is there to serve, while at the same time trying to deliver services in as efficient and low cost way as we can."

The Kensington and Chelsea party, proposing the third option, says it accepts the principle that, in the longer term, the MPs should choose the leader. "But that principle is justified only when MPs are properly representative of the whole party. After the next general election... our SDP MPs will have a just claim to represent the party."

On the question of women's representation, the ballot form offers two choices, one a system where area parties elect one man and one woman to be members of the party council, with extra representation for area parties containing more than three constituencies. The extra members would be of either sex. The other choice is the election of members without reference to sex.

A leading article in today's issue of *Liberal News*, the Liberal Party's weekly journal, deplores the "disastrous jostling" which is going on within the SDP leadership. "The election of a leader for the SDP is entirely a matter for them," it states.

Local polls challenge, page 2

by the parliamentary services select committee, which recommended doubling the number of hospital consultants and an immediate freeze on some junior doctor posts, when vacated, the report said.

Sir Douglas Black, president of the Royal College, predicted yesterday that the Government, which has accepted the Short report, would implement only those parts which would save money. The result would be fewer junior doctors but no more consultants.

Senior house officer posts in hospitals had been frozen yet the recommendation of the House of Commons Select Committee would mean that the number of consultants should grow in 1982/83 by 118 has been cut to 10-15 posts by the health authorities and the Department of Health and Social Security.

Sir Douglas said that the college was critical of the "simplistic" view that junior posts could be frozen and converted into senior posts. There had to be sufficient juniors to filter into the senior posts, he said.

CORRECTION

Mr William Reed-Davies MP states that Judge Pickles in a case, reported on March 31, in which two families were awarded damages for an abandoned holiday at a villa on Corfu, accepted that the contract was based entirely on a brochure and did not find that Mr Reed-Davies had described the villa as "the best on the island".

Overseas selling prices
Australia \$2.25; Barbados \$2.00; Belgium \$2.00; Canada \$2.00; Denmark \$2.00; France \$2.00; Germany \$2.00; Greece \$2.00; Hong Kong \$2.00; India \$2.00; Italy \$2.00; Japan \$2.00; Korea \$2.00; Luxembourg \$2.00; Malaysia \$2.00; Mexico \$2.00; Netherlands \$2.00; New Zealand \$2.00; Norway \$2.00; Portugal \$2.00; Singapore \$2.00; South Africa \$2.00; Sweden \$2.00; Switzerland \$2.00; Taiwan \$2.00; Thailand \$2.00; United Kingdom \$2.00; USA \$2.00; Yugoslavia \$2.00.

Democrats ballot on election method

By George Clark
Ballot papers will be circulated today to the 78,000 members of the Social Democratic Party to decide on the method of electing the party leader, and a representation of the party and for the ratification of the party's constitution.

There is a general election in the party's history, with the party seeking approval for the date of the election, which will be held on November 10, 1982.

Members are asked to choose between two methods of electing the leader: 1. If there are more than one nomination, the leader should be elected by a postal ballot of all members and there should be a mandatory review of the system in three years; 2. The first round of the election should be held by ballot of all members, and if any elected in the first round, the leader should be elected by a postal ballot of all members in the second round.

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Exhumation could clear man jailed for murder

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Home Office is considering an application for exhumation to help to prove whether a prisoner serving a life sentence is innocent of murder, as he claims.

New evidence in a BBC programme tonight indicates that Mervyn John Russell, an unemployed 32-year-old, almost certainly did not commit the crime for which he was convicted in 1977.

The exhumation, which is requested by Mr. Tom Sargent, secretary of Justice, the law reform society, is of Michael Molnar, who had a long police record and was increasingly suspect. He died six months after the murder, before Russell was tried.

The programme, *Rough Justice* on BBC 1, says that the police and experts agreed that 22 strands of hair grabbed by the murder victim, Jane Bigwood, an art student, could have come only from the killer who stabbed her at her home in Deptford, London.

The strands were dark, the rest grey or colourless. They are said not to match Russell's, but Molnar's hair is described as long and grey.

Exhumation would allow forensic tests to see if the hair was grabbed while the murder was in progress. The Home Office has asked Scotland Yard to make inquiries to see whether action by Mr. William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, is called for.

Russell lives in another wing of the same block of flats as Jane Bigwood and

Molnar, a Hungarian vagrant. He had no record of violence. Other key evidence is also questioned. A man seen by a witness escaping through a window wearing a waistcoat, Russell, seen in a public house before and after the time of murder, was not wearing a waistcoat. Nor was his behaviour untoward. But Molnar, according to people he lived with, wore a waistcoat "all the time" and he had no alibi the night of the murder.

The murderer's escape jump from a third-floor window to the ground could hardly have been made by an untrained man without injury, according to an expert, parapsychologist, who said he had had damaged ankles, beforehand, and showed no sign of abnormal injury afterwards.

The programme quotes evidence suggesting that Molnar, alone among possible suspects, might have had parachute training. Forensic evidence suggested the murderer was probably right-handed, whereas Russell is left-handed.

Molnar, who stayed around the flat for a few days after the murder, disappeared the day after the police arrived to interview his flat-mate. A diabetic, Molnar left behind belongings, including insulin and hypodermic needles.

At King's College Hospital, London, where he was subsequently obtained treatment, a doctor put in Molnar's re-

Labour in tussle over rent freeze

By Anthony Bevins
Political Correspondent

Labour's national executive has asked Mr. Michael Foot to commit a future Labour government to a one-year rent freeze.

But it is understood that the Labour Leader has failed to win support of Mr. Gerald Kaufman, his environment spokesman, and no commitment has been given.

Private pressure for such a move has been mounting at party meetings over the past two months, reaching a climax at Monday's meeting of the executive's home policy committee. Mr. John Gollings, MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme, joined Mr. Dennis Skinner, MP for Bolsover, in a rare display of party unity on the issue, but Mr. Foot said yesterday he would not commit the party to a rent freeze.

The argument put by Mr. Gollings was that rents had gone "sky high" under the Conservative Government, it would be impossible for Labour to increase rents, and a commitment to a freeze would help Labour candidates in the May elections.

Average council house rents in England and Wales rose from £5.50 to £6.48 a week between 1978-79 and 1979-80, just 1 per cent. Between 1979-80 and 1980-81, they rose by £1.70, or 26 per cent, and between 1980-81 and 1981-82 they increased by £3.50 or 40 per cent, to £10.98 a week.

In the first year of the 1974 Labour administration, council rents were frozen, and it is being emphasized that that record would give a revived rent freeze policy special credibility. Mr. Skinner said yesterday: "It would be unthinkable if we were to get back to office and then raise rents. We should be making this a big political issue."

Nevertheless, no progress has been made since the first meeting of the executive's home policy committee, chaired by Mr. Wedgwood Benn, two months ago. Mr. Skinner said yesterday that Mr. Foot had attended this week's meeting of the home policy committee to expand the debate but met resistance to a freeze.



The first pure-bred Angora kids to be born in Britain this century exploring the land at the Rare Breed Survival Trust centre at Ash House, Idlesleigh, Devon. The animals were bred under the supervision of Mrs. Marriana Rosenberg.

Sanctions on colleges urged in postgraduate reforms

By Diana Gaddes Education Correspondent

A radical change in the nature of a PhD in the social sciences, more rigorous selection of postgraduates and the withdrawal of postgraduate awards from universities with unacceptably low PhD completion rates, are called for in a report of a working party on postgraduate education, published by the Government yesterday.

The working party, whose main recommendations were reported in *The Times* last October, was set up nearly three years ago by the Advisory Board for the Research Councils to consider, among other things, how far postgraduate education as funded by the three main research councils was meeting the nation's manpower needs, and whether the present arrangements for postgraduate training were appropriate.

The members of the working party, which was chaired by Professor Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, Master of St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, and former Vice-Chancellor of the University of London, included Professor Sir Geoffrey Allen, who was then chairman of the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC), Dr. Edward Parkes, Chairman of the University Grants Committee and Mr. John Ashworth, at that time chief government scientist and now Vice-Chancellor of the University of London.

On manpower planning, the working party points out that past attempts to predict needs have not been successful. It believes that manpower planning, as now practised, can make only peripheral contribution to determining the number and distribution of postgraduate awards. The best surety for meeting the country's needs for skilled manpower, it is unremitting attention to the

quality of those selected for awards, and of their subsequent training, it says.

In general, the working party believes that the resources put into postgraduate education are well used, and that the country gets good value for money. About £60m a year goes to support 17,000 home postgraduates, all but 1,000 of whom are in universities.

However, the working party is concerned about the average length of time taken to complete a PhD, the wide variation in completion rates between different subjects and the criticisms frequently made of supervision arrangements for students. Research awards are normally granted for a maximum of three years. But recent surveys suggest that, on average, 46 per cent of science students and nearly 70 per cent of social science students have not completed their PhDs after five years. Completion rates for the same subject in different institutions varied enormously, the working party found, and seemed to bear no relation to the distinction of the university.

The working party calls for a series of graded sanctions against universities with unacceptably low completion rates, starting with the requirement that the student has a designated supervisor and a clearly defined research topic before an award is made, and culminating in the complete withdrawal of all research awards from that university.

The working party recommends that three years remain the normal maximum for postgraduate support, but calls for a check at the end of the first year to see whether a student is fit to continue with research training. It also calls for a radical change in requirements for a

PhD in the social sciences. At present the standard applied to a social science thesis is higher than that applied to a science thesis.

The report suggests that some new degree in the social sciences should be introduced, possibly called a PhD or some other name, which would be accepted as a certificate of satisfactory completion of a three-year course of research training, without the student necessarily having to produce a written thesis. The working party believes, however, that a written thesis in the sciences is essential.

Introducing the report in London yesterday, Sir Peter said there were several reasons for the low PhD completion rates: the ethos of some university departments; the lack of diligence among supervisors; and the size of the project undertaken by the student, particularly in the social sciences (Frances Gibb writes).

"The completion rates in the social sciences vary markedly. Some universities are doing better than others; but the best universities (in the social sciences) are doing worse than the worst universities in the natural sciences, which does represent a worry," he said.

Professor John Kingman, new chairman of the Science and Engineering Research Council, added that the standards of PhDs was now far higher than in decades past. There was now a tendency, he said, to demand more. Another reason for poor completion rates was that students were simply not good enough at those skills needed to do a research degree.

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£40m scheme in heart of Glasgow

From Jonathan Willis
Glasgow

A £40m scheme to redevelop a derelict area in the heart of Glasgow could provide 2,500 long-term jobs, according to a detailed planning application submitted to Glasgow District Council yesterday by Scottish Development Agency.

Unveiling a scale model of the plan for St. Enoch's Square, Mr. Robert Duthie, chairman of the agency, said that the development would inject new life into the centre of Glasgow.

It was one of the finest city centre sites in Europe and would provide superb facilities in a complex to rival any in the world.

Detailed plans for the 15-acre site include a shopping complex, offices, parking, a cinema, a theatre, a hotel, a public square, and an extensive public square.

The eastern part of the development, for which detailed planning permission has yet to be sought, will include about 140 private flats, an hotel and a multi-storey car park.

Mr. Duthie said the agency was acting as controller rather than funder for the project. The money would come from private institutions, making purely commercial decisions based on anticipated rentals for this site, although he hoped that Strathclyde Regional Council would pay for much of the parking space.

Discussions with potential investors were well advanced, he said. Mr. Duthie was optimistic in the face of doubts about the need for more hotels and chain stores in a city well provided with both. He said the St. Enoch's development would draw people back to the centre of Glasgow and would actually increase the market.

The architecture of the new centre is likely to cause controversy in a city noted for its fine Victorian and Edwardian buildings.

In contrast to the Gothic splendour of the decrepit St. Enoch's Hotel, which was demolished to make way for the present wasteland car park, the new design is uncompromisingly modern and severely functional.

Much of it will be enclosed under a glass structure resembling a giant L-shaped lean-to greenhouse. The "brutalist" school of modern architecture, which offends connoisseurs of Glasgow's nineteenth century buildings, is much evidence in other parts of the development.

The architects are confident, however, that the exciting building in St. Enoch's Square will achieve the same massive public patronage in Glasgow as the equally uncompromising Pompidou centre has had in Paris.

Channel tunnel 'could lose up to £300m'

By Michael Bailey, Transport Correspondent

The British and French governments were given a warning yesterday against embarking on a "submerged Concorde" in the form of a Channel tunnel that would make heavy losses against cut-price ferries.

After further intensive planning and technical studies through the summer, Mr. Howell has been careful to emphasize that continued reliance on ferries and aircraft is one of the options.

Apart from a bridge, which might just stay in the black, investors should be very wary of putting their money in a fixed link, Sir William Harris, chairman of the Dover Harbour Board said yesterday while introducing Queen's Speech in a London press conference.

A tunnel could be a "financial disaster" and the benefits claimed for it were illusory, he said. Future traffic at 35 million passengers a year in 2010 compared with 12 million now could be carried comfortably by ferries and in greater comfort and safety.

This fresh attack comes as the Anglo-French working party prepares to announce its choice of scheme and fears that time is short for a start in the lifetime of this Government.

Mr. David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, had hoped to announce the Anglo-French choice last month, but that is not now expected until after Easter. That puts more pressure on the tight timetable if, as is deemed necessary, legislation is to be included in Queen's Speech in November.

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Immigration falls to 9-year low

By Frances Gibb

The total number of people accepted for settlement in the United Kingdom last year was 58,000, about 11,500 lower than the total for the two previous years and the lowest annual total since 1973, according to Government immigration statistics published on Monday.

27,500 Commonwealth citizens were accepted, of whom 6,500 were from India; 5,800 from Bangladesh; 2,400 from Australia; 2,000 from New Zealand; and 2,800 were United Kingdom passport holders.

Of the 30,900 foreign nationals accepted, 8,900 were Pakistani nationals; 3,500 were citizens of the United States; 3,100 were refugees; and 2,200 were nationals from within the EEC.

Fewer people were accepted for settlement on arrival last year. The total was 27,650, the lowest figure since records were started in 1962.

The Home Office statistical bulletin, "Immigration from the Indian Sub-Continent", also published on Monday, says that from 1976-81, about one third of those accepted for settlement were from the Indian sub-continent and they were mainly dependants of people already settled in Britain.

Control of Immigration Statistics, United Kingdom 1980-81, HMSO, Stationery Office (£5.25).

Extradition for US road death trial rejected

Miss Gail Jennings, aged 21, of Lymington, Hampshire, won an appeal in the High Court in London yesterday, against extradition to the United States to answer charges arising from a road accident in which a boy cyclist, aged 15, died.

She returned to Britain in 1978, having been granted bail in California. Her appeal was against an order of Bow Street magistrates in London for her extradition to Los Angeles to face charges including driving while under the influence of drink and causing the boy's death "without malice but with gross negligence".

Lord Justice Ormrod and Mr. Justice Forbes ruled that the offences were not sufficiently grave to warrant extradition under the terms of the 1972 extradition treaty with the United States.

Refusing leave to appeal to the Lords, Lord Justice Ormrod said it would be deplorable if the case was taken further.

Counsel for the Los Angeles District Attorney, however, said leave to appeal would be sought from the House of Lords' appeal committee.

Lord Justice Ormrod said it was the first time an application had been made for an order of causing death by driving a motor vehicle. It had to be established whether, on the evidence, it would have been justifiable to commit Miss Jennings for trial on a charge of manslaughter, had the accident taken place in England.

The stipendiary magistrate had not properly considered whether a jury would convict on the charges.

Cash plea to preserve wildlife

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

The Nature Conservancy Council complained yesterday that it could not afford to safeguard exceptional wildlife habitats from development and intensive farming.

"At present we are obliged to respond to threats as they arise, and cannot always afford to protect sites," the council said. The impact of widespread farming had been felt, said Romney Marsh, in East Sussex where the council could not afford to buy more than 250 acres which the owner intended to drain. The area contained rare birds and frogs.

The greatest in the report was the fear of independent conservation groups that the council will be unable to meet its enlarged role under new wildlife laws to pay farmers not to make landscape changes that destroy or damage important habitats.

Some sites of exceptional scientific interest had been destroyed with the help of agricultural improvement, the council declared.

Nature Conservancy Council Special Report (Stationery Office, £6).

J. P. R. Williams wins libel action against 'Sun'

J. P. R. Williams, the former Welsh rugby captain, accepted undisclosed damages yesterday in settlement of his High Court libel action against *The Sun* over allegations that he breached his amateur status in relation to the proceeds of his autobiography.

Last February, a jury awarded Mr. Williams £20,000 libel damages over a similar allegation in *The Daily Telegraph*.

Yesterday *The Sun* apologized to Mr. Williams "should any of their readers have gained a false impression."

Mr. Charles Gray, counsel for the newspaper told Mr. Justice Park in London: "The purpose of publishing this article was to draw the public's attention to what the defendant believed, and still believe, was a breach of the amateur rules of rugby by Mr. Williams, albeit unintentionally, and the article was published in good faith."

Mr. Williams, Wales's most capped player who was made an MBE in 1977, had sued Mr. Ian Todd, a journalist, Sir Henry Lamb, the former editor of *The Sun*, and News International, the publishers.

Mr. Thomas Shields, counsel for Mr. Williams said an article by Mr. Todd published in February 1979 suggested



J. P. R. Williams Awarded undisclosed damages

Police must police themselves

By our Home Affairs Correspondent

No complaints system can on its own create or maintain public confidence that the police are exercising their powers responsibly, without unnecessary violence but with civility, the annual report of the Police Complaints Board, said yesterday.

The primary responsibility must remain with the police, and higher public must be reassured about that. There are types of complaint where public confidence might be increased by an independent element in the investigation process.

The board's warning comes as the government considers changes in the system after the Scarman report into the Brixton riots.

It would be a "considerable step in the wrong direction" if the responsibility for receiving and investigating complaints was removed from the police altogether, the report says.

During 1981, the board received reports of investigations into 7,343 cases, compared with 7,416 in 1980.

Report of the Police Complaints Board 1981, House of Commons Paper 275, (Stationery Office, £3.20p).

Force cleared by inquiry

The Northampton police force has been cleared of allegations of misconduct against it after a two-month inquiry by Mr. Adrian Clive, Chief Constable of Hertfordshire, who was brought in by the county council's police committee.

The allegations, made in February, have not been made public.

Mr. Charles Grimmer, police authority chairman, said yesterday that the report showed no evidence to support any criminal charge, nor did it disclose any need for disciplinary action.

Monks move into prison cells

Three monks are being locked into cells in Shepton Mallet prison, Avon, this week to help them to learn how prisoners live. They are let out of their cells each morning and, joined by three nuns, allowed to roam the prison blocks, which house 650 men.

The brothers and sisters, a Franciscan mission team, spend most of the day with the prisoners, having meals with them, visiting the prison workshops and taking part in their recreational facilities.

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FALKLANDS CRISIS/1

Admiral pins his faith on air superiority

By Henry Stanhope Defence Correspondent

Air superiority could be crucial in determining any confrontation between the Royal Navy task force and the Argentine forces in the Falkland Islands. Achieving it, however, could present Rear Admiral John Woodward and his senior commanders with their greatest problems.

The task force will have an estimated 20 Sea Harrier jets, 12 in HMS Hermes and eight in HMS Invincible. The Argentines have one aircraft carrier, the elderly 25th of May which has a peacetime complement of 14 A4 Skyhawks — but will probably have more on board from its reserve in the event of a naval battle. The Harrier is technically a small offensive aircraft, with a performance constrained by the sacrifices made to enable it to take off and land vertically. On the other hand the Navy, like the RAF, launch Harriers from short take-off. They also have the advantage of the ski-jump, the ramp in the bows which gives the aircraft extra lift into the air.

In the context of an isolated sea battle the Harrier offers the Navy a great deal and its potential as a ground attack aircraft in support of an amphibious landing, is indicated by its adoption by the United States Marines.

The Navy has the latest Sea Dart area air defence missile which is installed on HMS Invincible and three Sheffield class destroyers in the force. Other ships including three of the four Leander frigates, and two Amazon class frigates, which are better suited to the task of anti-air warfare, are also on station there, or so the older, shorter range Sea Dart.

But the Argentines have two Sheffield class anti-aircraft destroyers of their own — with Sea Dart on board — sold by Britain in the kind of deal which might have made economic sense at the time. Their light cruiser, which is on station there, is also equipped with 70 or so Sea Darts. So to some extent, like is facing like — even if Royal Navy sailors, being all professional, should have

more expertise in using their anti-aircraft weapons. The chief difficulty for Admiral Woodward, however, is that the Argentine coast is only about 400 miles from Port Stanley, while Britain is 8,000 miles away. This puts any naval battle within range of the Argentine Air Force's 68 Skyhawks, which have an average tactical radius of action of around 70 miles, and its squadron of 19 Mirage interceptors with a similar range.

This would not provide the Argentine Navy with additional air cover if they engaged the British in the area of South Georgia, about 800 miles to the south-east. But this would seem unlikely anyway. Current thinking is that the British task force, 3,500 miles away from its "forward" base on Ascension Island, will make first for

Gales and ice ahead

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The task force is sailing into a stormy part of the ocean at the worst time of the year. Although the main islands of East and West Falkland, separated by a 25 miles-wide strait are at about the same latitude in the southern hemisphere as London is in the northern half, the climate is more severe. Ice could be encountered at South Georgia.

Conditions at sea are similar to those in the North Atlantic Approaches off the Outer Hebrides, but the weather is colder. The latitude of the Falklands, and 200 small islands scattered around, is between 51 degrees and 53 degrees south.

Most of them miss the full force of the Roaring Forties which sweep across the middle latitudes of the south. Nevertheless, a persistent wind of about 15 knots blows from the west at the time of the year. The frequency of gale force winds and heavy seas increases as winter approaches at the end of April.

South Georgia where the current crisis first erupted, in the hope of securing a foothold in the South Atlantic.

From there, they would then mount their assault first on the Argentine Navy and then, all being well, on the Falklands themselves which means in effect Port Stanley.

The Sea Harriers would probably be needed to provide air cover for the Royal Marines and other troops as they storm ashore — if the worst comes to the worst. That would leave the Navy's surface-to-air missiles (SAMs) to protect the carriers and other warships from the Argentine mainland. Meanwhile the effectiveness of Argentine carrier borne aircraft might be neutralized by action taken against the carrier itself by hunter-killer submarines.

If the area of operations extends as far as South Georgia, the crews would begin to feel the harsh effects of the Antarctic convergence. Although pack ice does not extend as far as South Georgia, the bays of that island are over-ice early in winter. But the coastline of the main islands is deeply indented and provides many secure and sheltered anchorages. Those natural harbours were used in preparation for one of the principal battles of the First World War. The battle of the Falklands between a British squadron commanded under Vice-Admiral Sir Doveton Sturdee and a German squadron under Vice-Admiral Graf von Spee, was a reprisal by the British for earlier losses at sea.

For this second encounter, two battle cruisers, Invincible and Inflexible, were detached secretly from the Grand Fleet in the North Sea to reinforce the British squadron in the South Atlantic. All but one of the German squadron was sunk.



Defiant gesture: A confident Falkland Islander under the Argentine flag

The task force sails on

Carrier crew to get smell of cordite

From John Witherow, on board HMS Invincible, April 6

Part of the British naval force bound for the Falkland Islands rendezvoused in the South Western Approaches today while HMS Invincible, the anti-submarine carrier, started to bring its Harrier jets and Sea King helicopters to full operational capacity. HMS Fearless, the assault ship carrying Marines and Commodore Michael Clapp, overall commander of this section of the fleet, sailed from Portsmouth and was due to join the force within the next day or so. Some frigates and destroyers were already with Invincible and the flagship HMS Hermes, but the Navy was reluctant to publicize details of the force.

Once the ships have assembled they will head north in the direction of the South Atlantic. According to the rest of the fleet which is sailing for Ascension Island from operations off Gibraltar. Preparations on board Invincible, which has been sold to the Australians and is due to leave in May, continued with vertical take-off Harrier jets practising mock combat and evading "enemy" radar systems by skimming in low over the waves. For some of the pilots it is their first time on board the ship and they have been acclimatising themselves to landing on a platform while still within range of mainland bases.

To facilitate operations the carrier circled at only a few knots in calm about 100 miles south of the South Isles while last-minute supplies were flown on board by helicopter. Captain Jeremy Black, aged 50, addressed the crew after a full-scale practice emergency and outlined the respective strengths of the British and Argentine fleets, the route the ship would be following and the type of preparations to be undertaken as the carrier headed for the South Atlantic.

The mood among the crew and especially the Harrier pilots is one of jubilation. To say they are spilling for a fight would be an exaggeration but they are nonetheless ready and prepared for it and feel the islands should be regained by whatever means necessary. "It's what we're trained to do," one officer commented.

Lieutenant-Commander Nigel "Sharky" Ward, in charge of 801 Harrier Squadron, said they were undertaking a full training programme to give some new pilots practice in supporting a marine landing and entering air combat. "That is our bread and butter," he said. "It is what we are best at. We are keen to go and very confident."

"That has to be balanced by the fact there will be a few butterflies in our stomachs when we get up there on the flight deck and there will be a lot of adrenalin in the air."

Harrier pilots trained against US 'aggressors' in Britain and Sardinia

He said they had trained against a United States "aggressor" squadron flying F4s in Britain and Sardinia and had "wiped the table". But he was aware that the margin for error in modern jet-fights was extremely small. "If a pilot gets it wrong for one or two seconds he's a dead man. The Harrier can bite back if you don't fly it properly."

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to fire at least one missile near the carrier. "We're going to get them used to bangs going off around the ship," Commander Ward added. "The captain wants the crew to get used to the smell of cordite."

Meanwhile the Sea King squadron was practising take-offs and landings on the ship. Both Harriers and helicopters are keen to do some night flying at this early stage but the Sea Kings, designed to seek and destroy enemy submarines, are not yet training with torpedoes and depth charges. About a third of the helicopter crews have joined from other squadrons and are taking time to acclimatise themselves to the Invincible.

Captain Black told journalists that the fleet's progress south would depend upon decisions taken by the Foreign and Defence Ministries but they intended to proceed at something under 10 knots south of 200 miles would enable Invincible and Hermes to train their aircraft against one another out of radar range and allow the smaller vessels to keep up.

Navy's biggest headache is replenishing supplies from a base 4,000 miles away

One important factor preoccupying the task force is the necessity for replenishment of supplies. To conduct operations 4,000 miles from the nearest base is quite a thing to do, the captain said. The fleet will be accompanied by a number of supply vessels and there are plans to send out relief craft but it is undoubtedly a problem exercising the minds of Naval Commanders. The present period of training is a time to get the ships to full fighting capacity and to make some adjustments. "We are a navy who tend to train against a Russian threat and here we see some slight changes in that," he said. "The thing I am talking about is a matter of detail but nonetheless important."

He said the ship was capable of coping with chemical or nuclear contaminated zones by sealing itself and building up a higher air pressure inside and was well equipped to cope with flooding.

There has been an unofficial change in the identification of lifejackets aboard ship. A notice in the flying clothing store reads: "Due to the untimely death of Mas West all Mark II, 15 and 25 life preservers will be now known as Dolly Partons."

Underneath someone has scribbled "or Erika Reis". HMS Fearless, the assault ship which will spearhead any attempt to regain the Falkland Islands, yesterday gathered her brood of landing craft like ducklings under her wing and moved out from Portsmouth to join the task force (Stewart Trender-Ward).

On a cold, wet and windswept day there was little sign of the thousands who gathered to see HMS Invincible and Hermes leave on Monday. But as Fearless nosed out of the dockyards, her siren booming across the water, people began to appear on the harbour walls. Many were mothers and wives of some of them openly in tears.

For there was no doubting Fearless's bellicose appearance. The decks were lined with men from the 580-strong crew while at there were ranks of Marines dressed in battle fatigues. In their midst were ranged field and anti-tank guns, part of the equipment for a Marine force of 500-700 men on the ship.

Argentina is a party to such conventions as is this country. For this purpose it would appear that both Argentina and this country will be bound, as a matter of international law, to accept the offer of the humanitarian services of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Saturday's debate in the Commons, generally, was not illuminating, so far as international law was concerned. This is odd because the validity of all our present actions directed against Argentina, whether naval, military or economic, are based on that international law. If not so based, they have no validity whatsoever. International law may need more attention than it has so far received in this incident.

Perhaps today's debate will be focussed more precisely.

G I A D Draper

(Professor Emeritus in Law, Sussex University)

General's gamble

Retreat could cost Galtieri his job

By Peter Stafford

Argentina is a potentially rich country with enormous natural resources, as almost every Argentine is aware. But it has suffered badly from misgovernment, both civilian and military, in recent years, and the result is that it has failed to fulfil the promise which it showed earlier this century. General Leopoldo Galtieri, who came to power last December in a bloodless coup within the regime, is only the latest in a long line of military men who have taken the view that they know what is best for the country. His declared objective, like those of his immediate predecessors, is to reverse the decline and begin a process of national reconstruction.

The difference is that he has decided to set about it in a flamboyant and adventurous style. He clearly sees the invasion of the Falklands, which almost all Argentines regard as being properly theirs, as being a popular issue.

If he pulls it off, he will have succeeded in distracting attention, at least for a time, from the economic hardships now afflicting the country. If he is forced to withdraw, he will suffer a humiliating setback, which will not be forgiven either by Argentine public opinion or by his fellow members of the armed forces, who could be counted on to try to remove him from power.

The present military regime took power in 1976 at a time of exceptional disorder in Argentina. Strong, well armed and well financed guerrilla groups were active in many parts of the country; and the economy was in ruins, with inflation reaching 54 per cent in a single month and the currency reserves reduced to almost nothing.

The tottering government of President Maria Estela Peron, widow of Juan Peron, was plainly unequal to the task of restoring order, and the intervention of the armed forces, headed by General Rafael Videla, was widely welcomed.

On the economic front the new military government had some success, initially, at least in restoring normality, boosted by the natural resilience of the Argentine economy. Inflation was brought down, along traditional liberal lines.

But the operations on the other front, against the guerrillas, were more controversial. In the face of an admittedly serious threat, the armed forces made a deliberate decision to wage a "dirty war", in which anyone who was even suspected of sympathies with the guerrillas, or of having any sort of contact with them, was liable to be kidnapped, tortured and killed.

The policy was successful, in that the guerrillas were virtually eliminated from Argentine life. But in the process thousands of people,

many of them completely innocent, disappeared and are now presumed to be dead. In recent years the number of disappearances has dwindled to almost nothing, with the elimination of the guerrilla groups. But the issue remains an active one in Argentine life, since relatives of those who disappeared are maintaining their pressure for information on what happened and regularly demonstrate outside the presidential palace in the Plaza de Mayo.

Since the armed forces took over, there have been no elections and there have been severe restrictions on the activities of political parties and trade unions. The regime maintains a constant vigilance, its public commitment to a restoration of democracy, but it has avoided committing itself to a precise timetable.

In the last year or two there has, however, been an easing of the atmosphere. There has been more activity by the parties, which has been reported in the papers, and General Galtieri apparently sees himself as eventually heading some political party or movement, which, if all goes well for him, would be swept into office.

But his main problem is the state of the economy, which has been in a severe crisis for the past year. Banks and industrial firms have gone bankrupt, and unemployment has soared to an official level of 500,000 with the true figure perhaps two million — very high for a country of some 27 million and one in which until recently unemployment was hardly known.

Inflation is now at 149 per cent, and the value of the peso has plummeted. While dollar workers try to negotiate four pay rises a year, and having two jobs is commonplace. This state of affairs has led to a resurgence of trade union activity, particularly by the General Confederation of Labour (CGT), which was so powerful in the days of General Peron. Demonstrations were called on March 30, which led to four deaths and many injuries between the police and demonstrators in Buenos Aires.

In external relations, Argentina has developed cordial relations with the Soviet Union, which buys Argentine grain, sells Soviet goods in return and helps defend Argentina against attacks on its territory by the United Nations bodies.

The extent of the Soviet link became painfully obvious to Washington when the Argentines refused to go along with the American grain embargo against Moscow after the invasion of Afghanistan.

The Reagan administration has made great efforts to mend fences with Buenos Aires, and is clearly embarrassed by the Falklands affair.

Alliance's boat rocked by Steel

By Anthony Bevin Political Correspondent

Action by Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, to prepare for an early general election over the Falklands crisis last night caused new divisions within the party. It was learnt yesterday that he is to advise party negotiators to speed up their negotiations on the division of parliamentary seats with the Social Democrats, completing the carve-up before the new deadline of April 20. But this was deplored last night by senior Social Democratic sources who described the move as irresponsible at a time when all parties in the Commons should be seen to be rallying around the Government in its resolve to win back the occupied British territory.

While Mr Steel believes that an ultimate solution may yet have to be built around the possibility of turning the Falklands into a United Nations dependency, an idea that may yet be extended to Gibraltar and Hong Kong, his alliance partners feel most strongly that negotiation should concentrate on a return to British sovereignty.

The Liberals also appear to be less resolute on the issue of force, echoing one Labour spokesman's comment that "it still has to be evaluated fully. Last year Shell and Exxon reported finds of 5,360 barrels a day and 3,100 respectively."

Further exploration has come to a head because of the dispute with Atlantic Richfield confirmed last night that it had won a

Oil a key factor in attempts to resolve the crisis

By Michael Frenchman

A preliminary contract option from the Argentine state oil agency YPF to negotiate prospecting rights in the controversial Magallanes offshore block, which straddles what is called the "putative" medium line between the Falkland Islands and the Argentine mainland, Atlantic Richfield's consortium included Mobil which later dropped out possibly because of the political position. Technically speaking, the islands only have a three-mile limit as Britain has never declared a 200-mile economic zone around the islands. In any case, this would not have been recognized by the Argentine Government as it claims sovereignty of all the waters around it.

The British Government was unaware of the prospective risk contract until when it was drawn to its attention by The Times. It took the unusual step of publishing an advertisement in the press warning international oil companies not to go ahead.

Argentina is currently moving more than 95 per cent self-sufficient in oil and gas but is anxious to become a net exporter in order to boost its ailing economy which is why it has stepped up the offshore drilling programme on the basis of risk contracts. Oil industry sources claim that the overall prospects are encouraging, but until a proper exploration programme over the whole area has been carried out it is impossible to say whether the true position. Atlantic Richfield said last night that they

had shown an interest in the disputed Magallanes offshore block, which adjoins waters where test drilling has been carried out, because the seismic data "looked encouraging".

The Foreign Office is in the past been consulting on numerous occasions the British and Argentine Governments about applications for drilling off the Falklands but has refused to grasp the problem, the hope that companies would lose and go away.

One oil expert has said that the indications are that oil and gas deposits are being found in the South Atlantic, which is a geological layer, this layer lies between the Argentine mainland and the islands and dips to the east.

It is thought that the main reservoir, if it exists, will be closer to the islands than the mainland. But this cannot be proved until test drilling takes place. This has not happened because the British Government has not been able to reach agreement with Argentina.

Over the last 18 months, Argentine Foreign Ministry officials have privately expressed extreme frustration at Britain's attitude over this matter as they would have liked to see some kind of joint proposal for a "production sharing agreement".

It now seems possible that such negotiations for a joint production agreement, bringing in the United States as guarantor, in return for a share of the revenue, could lead to a possible basis for a transfer of sovereignty lease-back settlement.

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It now seems possible that such negotiations for a joint production agreement, bringing in the United States as guarantor, in return for a share of the revenue, could lead to a possible basis for a transfer of sovereignty lease-back settlement.

International law would favour the British argument

View of an eminent authority

Despite the emotional tide which swept through the House of Commons during last Saturday's emergency debate few references to the international law aspect of the Falkland Islands debacle could be detected. The paucity of order, marked by the Speaker's repeated calls for order, was equalled only by the rarity of attention to the legal nature of the issues and proposals put before the House.

The Prime Minister informed the House that the unprovoked aggression by the government of Argentina had not a shred of justification or a scrap of legality. This cannot be gainsaid. The conduct of Argentina is a classic violation of Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter — prohibition of the use of force against the territory of any state — to which Argentina has been a party since October 24, 1945, when that paramount international law instrument came into force.

It might also be pointed out that at no time has Argentina subscribed to the optional clause of the International Court of Justice accepting its compulsory jurisdiction. Judicial settlement would

manifestly be the proper method of settling the Falkland Islands dispute. Argentina claims to be entitled to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands. So does the United Kingdom. Such an international legal dispute "should as a general rule be referred by the parties to the International Court..." in accordance with the provisions of its statute (Article 36 [3]) of the Charter. The optional clause has been subscribed to by 45 states to date.

The conduct of Argentina during the last few days does not spell out to the world much confidence in the UN Charter or the validity of Argentina's claim to the Falkland Islands and Dependencies. No doubt that was a factor which the UN Security Council took into account, as it has before, when adopted last Saturday's resolution demanding an immediate cessation of hostilities, and the immediate withdrawal of all Argentine forces from the Falklands and called on Argentina and Britain to seek a diplomatic solution of their differences and to respect fully the charter.

Argentina has now violated at least two of the charter's principles: to settle its dis-

pute with Britain by peaceful means, and to refrain from the use or threat of force against the territorial integrity of any state (Article 2(3) and Article 2(4) respectively). The UK claims, the Defence Secretary, to have dispatched its task force as its right of self-defence under Article 51 of the charter, sometimes called the most over-worked provision of the charter. The Prime Minister has thus given this country room to move both within the mandatory terms of the Security Council's resolutions cited and in lawful exercise of the UK's "inherent" right of self-defence under the charter.

Mrs Thatcher stated in the parliamentary debate that she could not foresee what orders the task force would receive as it proceeded. That, she said, would depend on the situation. Meanwhile, as she reiterated at question time yesterday, she hoped that continuing diplomatic efforts, helped by Britain's many friends, would be successful.

The "inherent" right is in this instance and individual self-defence. The Falkland Islands stand outside the geographical limits of the

North Atlantic Treaty Organization area under the Atlantic Treaty, which is the right of self-defence being "inherent", is exemplified, that may be justified in law will have reached vanishing point.

The famous formulation of the US Secretary of State, Daniel Webster, in 1823, stated: "There must be necessity of self-defence, instant, overwhelming, leaving no choice of means and no moment for deliberation... it must involve nothing unreasonable or excessive since the act justified by the necessity of self-defence must be limited by that necessity and kept clearly within it." This formula received endorsement in a judgment of the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg in 1946, and was unanimously reaffirmed by the UN General Assembly during the debate, that Britain declare its right to a 200-mile limit around the Falklands. It would, he said, "be compatible with international law to declare within that limit that no Argentine vessel should appear, and if it did, the British Navy would take action."

This is a curious proposal. In time of armed conflict at sea, such a limit would restrict action by the Royal Navy to an extent not required by international law. In time of normality a 200-mile limit would be difficult to justify because such a claim for a territorial sea is not yet accepted in international law.

More curiously, and what was not mentioned by any MP during the debate, but which may be immediately practical, is the humanitarian treatment that must be accorded to any UK service man or merchant seaman captured by the Argentine

If, however, diplomatic activities have proved successful during the voyage of the task force or at its close, the amount of armed force that may be justified in law will have reached vanishing point.

Dr David Owen, the former Foreign Secretary, proposed during the debate, that Britain declare its right to a 200-mile limit around the Falklands. It would, he said, "be compatible with international law to declare within that limit that no Argentine vessel should appear, and if it did, the British Navy would take action."

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More curiously, and what was not mentioned by any MP during the debate, but which may be immediately practical, is the humanitarian treatment that must be accorded to any UK service man or merchant seaman captured by the Argentine

forces, as required by the Geneva (Prisoner of War) Convention, 1949, and the like treatment which must be accorded to our civilian nationals now in the occupied Falkland Islands, under the Geneva (Civilians) Convention, 1949.

Argentina is a party to such conventions as is this country. For this purpose it would appear that both Argentina and this country will be bound, as a matter of international law, to accept the offer of the humanitarian services of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Saturday's debate in the Commons, generally, was not illuminating, so far as international law was concerned. This is odd because the validity of all our present actions directed against Argentina, whether naval, military or economic, are based on that international law. If not so based, they have no validity whatsoever. International law may need more attention than it has so far received in this incident.

Perhaps today's debate will be focussed more precisely.

G I A D Draper

(Professor Emeritus in Law, Sussex University)

called on Japan publicly to condemn Argentina's invasion of the Falkland Islands, but Japanese officials said privately that it would be difficult for Japan to join in economic sanctions against Argentina because it was friendly with both countries.

Haig rejects freeze on nuclear arms

Washington, April 6. — Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, said today that a proposed freeze on new nuclear weapons would put Western civilization at risk and increase the likelihood of global devastation.

In the most comprehensive statement so far of the Reagan Administration's nuclear arms policy, Mr Haig said the non-communist world must reject a freeze and avoid the prospect of nuclear catastrophe and nuclear blackmail.

"By maintaining the military balance and sustaining deterrence, we protect the essential values of Western civilization," he said.

Mr Haig's remarks, in a speech at the Georgetown University Centre for Strategic and International Studies, was the Administration's latest effort to counter growing calls for a halt to the arms race.

Mr Richard Perle, Assistant Defence Secretary, said last week that a freeze at existing levels, as proposed by 175 members of Congress, would lock in Soviet superiority and reduce prospects for arms reductions.

The Administration has also been trying to regain the initiative in world public opinion that American officials concede has been captured by President Brezhnev in recent weeks.

President Reagan called for dramatic reductions in nuclear arms in a press conference last week and at another session with reporters yesterday he invited

the Soviet leader to meet him in New York this summer to discuss arms control.

But Mr Reagan's comments, particularly his claim that Moscow has gained clear nuclear superiority, sparked new criticism from arms control advocates.

Mr Haig today rejected calls for a freeze, for renouncing the first use of nuclear weapons and for submitting to Soviet demands rather than risking nuclear war, a position popularly known as "better red than dead".

A western pledge against using nuclear weapons first would be "a major step towards conventional aggression," he said.

"If the West were to allow Moscow the freedom to choose the level of conflict which most suited it and to leave us subject to Soviet discretion the nature and timing of any escalation, we would be forced to maintain conventional forces at least at the level of those of the Soviet Union and its allies," he said.

He repeated administration arguments that freezing American and Soviet nuclear arsenals at existing levels would perpetuate an unstable and unequal military balance, reward a decade of unilateral Soviet buildup and remove all incentives to engage in meaningful arms control designed to cut armaments and reduce the risk of war.

Western deterrence, he said, depended upon its ability even after suffering a huge nuclear blow to prevent an aggressor from securing military advantage.

A pledge not to use nuclear weapons first would also require military conscription, the tripling of American armed forces and putting the economy on a wartime footing to counterbalance the Soviet conventional advantages.

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Embrace of leaders: Señor Javier Perez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, during a private audience with the Pope yesterday.

Move to close PLO office in Paris

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, April 6

The assassination of a member of the Israeli embassy in Paris on Saturday, coming after a recrudescence of terrorist attacks against Jewish organizations in the past few months, has brought increasing pressure on the French Government to close down the liaison and information office of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

This was opened in October, 1975, and its staff does not enjoy any special or honorary status; but its head, being on the Arab diplomatic list, does have

mentioned the closing down of the PLO representation. But a few hours later the Israeli Embassy denied this. The ambassador had submitted no written demand to this effect, but had done so verbally.

Several thousand people demonstrated last night outside the PLO office in the district of Passy, in response to a call of the League Against Racism, and of leading Jewish organizations. These were no incidents, although the atmosphere was tense.

"Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who called on him today had not

diplomatic privileges and is received occasionally at the Foreign Ministry.

The Government seems determined to resist this pressure. M. Claude Cheysson, the Foreign Minister, emphasized that the PLO must be presumed innocent so long as there was no proof to the contrary.

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Doubts emerge on Gibraltar border

From Harry Debelius Madrid, April 6

Reassuring words from the ruling centre party's foreign policy spokesman sen Javier Ruperez failed to dispel doubts in Madrid today on whether the border would reopen as scheduled in two weeks.

Madrid newspapers said that a toughening of the British position on the de-colonization of Gibraltar could be expected after the Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands. They also pointed out that Mr Francis Pym, the new Foreign Secretary, would have little time to devote to the Gibraltar question until the Falklands issue was resolved one way or another.

Señor Ruperez took an optimistic view in an interview broadcast by the state-run Radio Nacional today saying: "As far as the Spanish Government is concerned, there is a will to go ahead with those negotiations, which imply the lifting of Spanish restrictions on Gibraltar on the one hand, and on the other hand, talks about all the Gibraltar-related problems, including the question of sovereignty."

"I think it is in the interest of the British Government itself to maintain the rhythm of the negotiations, the calendar and the time spans which were worked out some time ago with Spain about Gibraltar."

The independent newspaper *El Pais* and the monarchist *ABC* both speculated that the Falklands developments might lead to a postponement of the restoration of land communications between Gibraltar and the rest of the Iberian Peninsula on April 20.

Señor Carlos Mendo, the former London Correspondent of *El Pais*, remarked that recent progress on the Gibraltar issue was the result of personal contacts between Señor Jose Pedro Perez, Llorca, the Spanish Foreign Minister and Lord Carrington, the former Foreign Secretary.

Señor Mendo also said that the "hypersensitivity of British public opinion at this moment, bordering on hysteria in some communications media" could be expected to inhibit Whitehall in talks aimed at the recovery by Spain of sovereignty over the Rock.

In a front-page commentary, accompanying a photograph of Royal Navy ships leaving Portsmouth, *ABC* said that even if the British Government decides to go ahead with the scheduled talks in Lisbon on Gibraltar, "it will be up to the Spanish Government to decide whether there is a chance that the encounters might be fruitful."

Leading article in *El Pais* raised the question whether it was really in Spain's interests to go ahead with the plan. "Would it not be more advisable," the newspaper said, "temporarily to suspend the operation until things settle down."

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World on brink of war, says Gandhi

Delhi, April 6. — Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, said today that the global situation was out of control and that the world was "on the brink" of war.

"No country however powerful feels secure today," she told a political convention in Jammu, Kashmir. She blamed the international arms race.

Mrs Gandhi said that the Prime Minister of an "important country" had told her that while nobody wanted war, it was possible that everyone would get involved if one broke out. She was apparently referring to Mrs Margaret Thatcher, whom she met last month in London.

In another speech Mrs Gandhi told Army troops that India needed to be so strong that no one would dare attack it, and that "even if this was done, we should be in a position to repel such an attack." — AP.

Mr Charan Singh, aged 80, the former Indian Prime Minister, who now heads the opposition Lok Dal Party, today announced his decision to retire from "active political life". He told the Press Trust of India: "I have been thinking of retiring from active political life for the last two years or so, but my friends would not release me. I have, however, now taken a decision to this effect."

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Britain opposes EEC workers' rights plan

From Ian Murray, Brussels, April 6

Britain stood out alone today against proposals for a Community-wide scheme intended to give workers in multinational companies the right to consultation and employment protection.

An informal meeting of employment ministers in Brussels took a preliminary look at the idea. While most countries wanted to await Parliament's decision on the matter, Mr Norman Tebbit, the British Minister, made it clear that legally binding measures on the subject were contrary to the approach of his Government.

Mr Tebbit said that the Government favoured good relations between management and employees, and considered that voluntary guidelines such as those laid down by the International Labour Organisation and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development were sufficient. Britain did not like legal compulsion in this area.

The British Government had no objection to individual countries introducing national legislation of this kind, but he believed it was not something to be imposed on all member states.

France, which is in the process of drawing up legislation of this kind, said that experience proved that voluntary standards were not observed unless they were supported by law.

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Pym faces hard bargaining on EEC budget

From Ian Murray, Brussels, April 6

Mr Francis Pym, the new Foreign Secretary, may have little time at the moment for anything but the Falkland Islands crisis, but he will nevertheless have to start reading himself in very quickly to one of the most complicated dossiers on any minister's desk.

It is the vexed question of Britain's contribution to the EEC budget, which was due to be discussed at a special meeting of EEC foreign ministers in Luxembourg last Saturday that had to be cancelled because Lord Carrington could not be present.

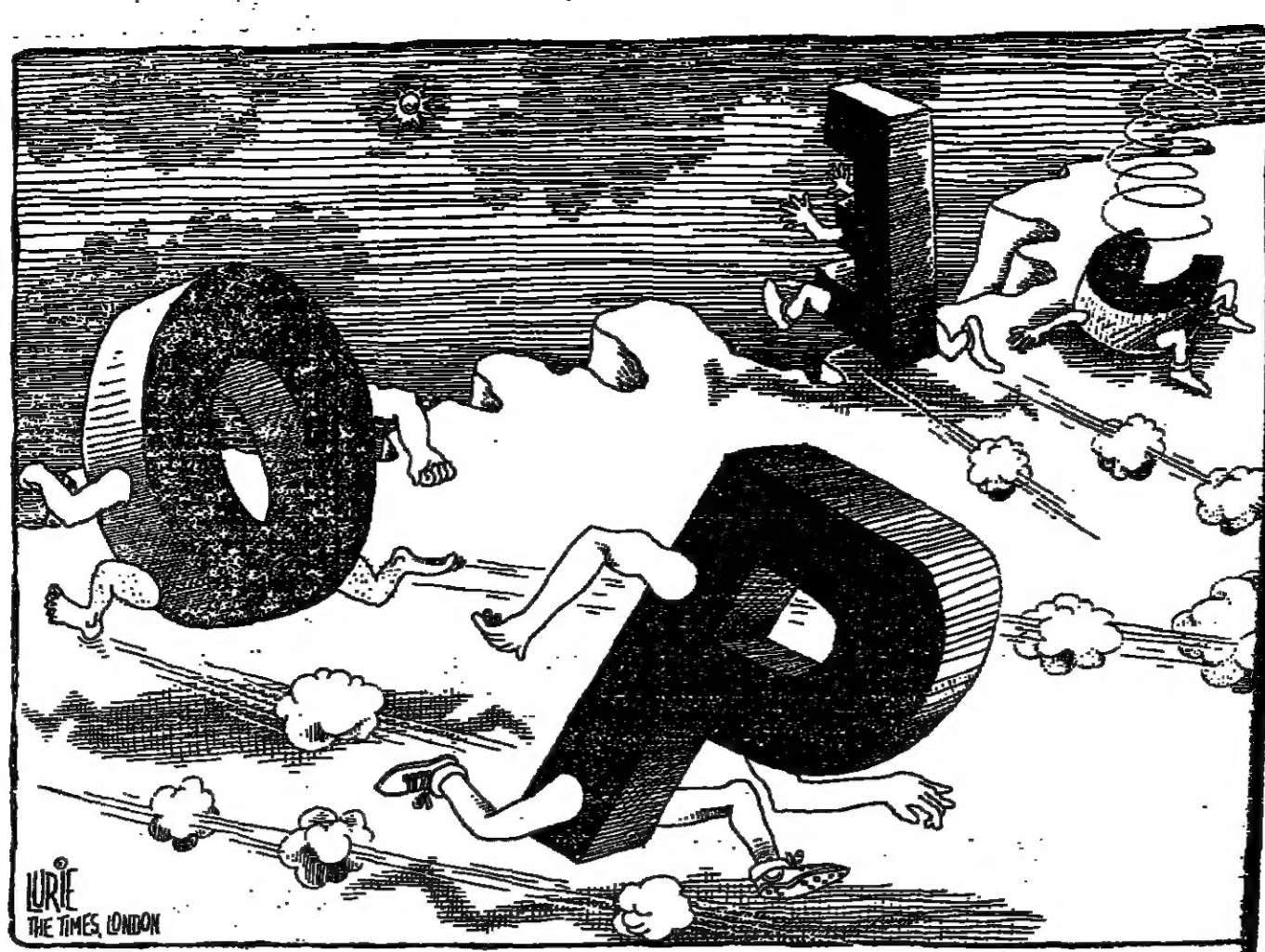
Lord Carrington hated the hard grind of EEC negotiations, particularly because he so often found himself in the unenviable role of protecting British interests against the assaults of most and sometimes all the other nations. Nevertheless, he is a profoundly committed European and regarded the hard work of the meetings as something of a cross he had to bear on behalf of the European ideal.

His convictions not only won him the respect of his opposite numbers from the other countries, but meant he was prepared to work harder for a compromise than might a more nationalistic minister.

Since coming to office, he has amassed a considerable experience and knowledge of the subject which was a vital element in Britain's negotiating position.

Mr Pym will have to work hard to assimilate the intricacies of the dossier before the next meeting of the foreign ministers, now scheduled for April 27 in Luxembourg. He will have to take up the negotiations at a particularly delicate moment, with Britain for once precariously in a camp with nine other countries seeking to persuade France to use a complicated compromise formula as a basis for discussion.

Any hardening of Britain's position at this meeting could easily swing the other countries impatiently heeding the French position and it will



Crusaders in a dugout Iranian quest for martyrdom

From Robert Fisk, Dugout, Western Iran, April 6

The dugout was small, with thick dirt in the air. There were weapons attached to the mud-and-wooden framed walls—a captured Iraqi sub-machine gun and an anti-aircraft rifle—and a few steel helmets piled in a corner. The light from the sand-bagged doorway forced its way into the little bunker, defining the features of the six young Iranian soldiers in one-dimensional perspective, like an Orpen painting to the First World War trenches.

There was no monstrous anger of the guns, only a dull, occasional vibration to indicate that the Iraqis had not abandoned all their artillery when they retreated from Dezful.

There, however, the parallel ended. For the youngest soldier was only 14, his voice unbroken by either fear or adulthood. The oldest was 21, an Islamic volunteer from Iran's "Reconstruction Crusade," who expounded the principles of martyrdom as the guns boomed away distantly outside.

We were just six miles from the Iraqi frontier, at the very northern tip of the Iranian Army's newly-extended and potentially vulnerable front-line. Martyrdom is an oft-repeated subject here, much revered because it is much witnessed.

The 14-year-old said two of his friends from Kerman had died in the fighting—one his own age and the other only a year older. He had cried, he said, when the authorities delayed his journey to the battlefield. His comments were at one and the same time both incredible and genuine, clearly unstaged since we had only by chance run to his dugout when the trench parapet beyond the bunker, the vibration physically shaking the dugout.

There was no doubt, however, which of the soldiers most clearly understood the ideology of martyrdom inside

Belgrade wary on détente

From Dena Trevisan, Belgrade, April 6

Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, said on leaving Belgrade that the Yugoslav leader had been both useful and necessary, continuing the impression that the talks had helped to clarify respective positions but that differences remain.

Mr Gromyko, however, refused to comment on President Reagan's proposal to meet Mr Brezhnev in New York later this year.

As Mr Gromyko was the first high-ranking Russian to visit Yugoslavia since President Tito's death in May 1980, the visit was taken almost entirely by the international press.

The object of the visit for the Soviet Union was to get Yugoslavia's blank cheque support for Mr Brezhnev's proposals for peace. But although Yugoslavia welcomed the proposals, the principle that anything aimed at disarmament was welcome, it still maintains the view that it cannot support détente confined to two major powers alone.

The view was emphasized when Mr Josip Broz Tito, Yugoslavia's Foreign Minister, said that only by removing the causes of tension, which in the Yugoslav view originates from the use of force and intervention, could peace be a lasting one.

Nevertheless, the final communique underlines the generalities on which the two sides could easily reach full agreement, such as the necessity of stopping the arms race.

The visit therefore ended by reaffirming the active positions but the Yugoslav proposals as a step in the right direction.

Letter from Moscow Galloping automania afflicts Russians

Go to a smart party in Moscow nowadays and you will find people clustered round the guest of honor, filling up his drink, inviting him to their dachas, and surreptitiously scribbling down his private phone number. It may be a well-known actor or poet, but more likely the star of the evening is someone every top official wants to get to know—a good garage mechanic.

The age of the automobile has descended on the Russians with a vengeance. The business of buying, running and maintaining a car must be more time-consuming and frayed more tempers in this country than almost anywhere else. It is not simply that cars are hard to get and cost a great deal. You have to be a crook, a millionaire or a self-taught mechanic if you want to keep your car on the road.

Car production is outstripping that of spare parts and the growth of garages at an alarming rate. Of 750,000 new vehicles produced each year, the state repair stations can handle only 38 per cent. One private mechanic calculated that a private motorist in the provinces spends on average 60 hours to get one repair performed. And even then he cannot be sure his car comes home any better.

A spot check at Moscow's central service station for Zhiguli cars—the popular version of the Fiat—found excessive exhaust emission in seven cars in a row which had just had their carburetors adjusted.

When the inspector tested the brakes on one car, it practically refused to stop. The station foreman explained that the car's new brake shoes would perform poorly "only for the first 20 to 50 kilometres" but said that in any case the garage was simply asked to fix them, not to make sure they worked.

Service stations may go into private sector

Most Russians remove any excess that can be purloined: wing mirrors often find their way into women's handbags as make-up mirrors and windscreen wipers can vanish in five minutes. There was a nice irony when Christina Orskov, a Danish woman, was escorted to her husband's waiting grey Volvo, from which he had carefully detached the wipers in case the car was nicked during the wedding ceremony.

But all this does not dampen rising automania in the Soviet Union. Georgians are the worst affected. I was once approached by a swarthy man as I was waiting in my modern Zhiguli and offered thousands of rubles in cash on the spot. When the British Ambassador was rash enough to take the official Rolls down to Georgia a few years ago, his party had to fend off proposals for astronomical sums in fat wads from his pockets. It is even rumoured that one by one, cars from the exotic fleet in President Brezhnev's stable have been finding their way down to the southern free-wheeling republics.

Soviet motorists are seriously talking about turning the service stations over to the private sector in order to cope, and experiments have begun on these lines in the Baltic republics. Officials have tried everything to hold back the sales of cars, from doubling the price of petrol and drawing in the waiting lists for purchases.

Michael Binyon

Reagan woos pro-west Caribbean premiers

From Jeremy Taylor, Port of Spain, April 6

President Reagan is due in Jamaica tomorrow for a short official visit on his way to an Easter weekend in Barbados.

The trip was originally planned as a working holiday at the invitation of the veteran film actress Claudette Colbert, but it is now likely to leave Mr Reagan little time for sunbathing or taking over old Hollywood times.

In Jamaica the President will meet Mr Edward Seaga, the Prime Minister, his strongest Caribbean supporter, while in Barbados he will meet several pro-American leaders from the smaller eastern Caribbean islands, including the Prime Ministers of Barbados, Antigua, Dominica and St Vincent.

Left wing leaders in the area—St Lucia's interim

Prime Minister Mr Michael Manley and Grenada's Prime Minister, Mr Maurice Bishop, have pointedly not been invited.

On Easter Sunday the Reagans will worship in a seventeenth-century Anglican church.

Mr Reagan will be the first incumbent of the White House to set foot in the English speaking Caribbean, where American officials are playing down the trip's significance.

"Barbados is a nice country," said Mr Robert Ryan, coordinator of Mr Reagan's Caribbean tour, "and it deserves a vacation."

But the real objective is clearly to show an American commitment to the major pro-Western, free enterprise governments in the area.

ENTERTAINMENTS

ALBERT, 8.30-8.55, 8.55-9.15, 9.15-9.30, 9.30-9.45, 9.45-10.00, 10.00-10.15, 10.15-10.30, 10.30-10.45, 10.45-11.00, 11.00-11.15, 11.15-11.30, 11.30-11.45, 11.45-12.00, 12.00-12.15, 12.15-12.30, 12.30-12.45, 12.45-1.00, 1.00-1.15, 1.15-1.30, 1.30-1.45, 1.45-2.00, 2.00-2.15, 2.15-2.30, 2.30-2.45, 2.45-3.00, 3.00-3.15, 3.15-3.30, 3.30-3.45, 3.45-4.00, 4.00-4.15, 4.15-4.30, 4.30-4.45, 4.45-5.00, 5.00-5.15, 5.15-5.30, 5.30-5.45, 5.45-6.00, 6.00-6.15, 6.15-6.30, 6.30-6.45, 6.45-7.00, 7.00-7.15, 7.15-7.30, 7.30-7.45, 7.45-8.00, 8.00-8.15, 8.15-8.30, 8.30-8.45, 8.45-9.00, 9.00-9.15, 9.15-9.30, 9.30-9.45, 9.45-10.00, 10.00-10.15, 10.15-10.30, 10.30-10.45, 10.45-11.00, 11.00-11.15, 11.15-11.30, 11.30-11.45, 11.45-12.00, 12.00-12.15, 12.15-12.30, 12.30-12.45, 12.45-1.00, 1.00-1.15, 1.15-1.30, 1.30-1.45, 1.45-2.00, 2.00-2.15, 2.15-2.30, 2.30-2.45, 2.45-3.00, 3.00-3.15, 3.15-3.30, 3.30-3.45, 3.45-4.00, 4.00-4.15, 4.15-4.30, 4.30-4.45, 4.45-5.00, 5.00-5.15, 5.15-5.30, 5.30-5.45, 5.45-6.00, 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Television
Paternal powers

Last night was Authority Night. Young Arnold in QED (BBC 1) could not get enough of it and was seriously comically instructed in the New Life-manship of power by figures as old as Macchavelli and as new as John T. (Dress for Success) Molloy. Pope John Paul II (Everyman, BBC 1) was perhaps grabbing back too much — not for himself, the distinction was made clear, but for his office. Whistling Wally (Play for Today, BBC 1) had given up the authority of a father in order to make the lads in the pub laugh and forget the awfulness of their lives in the rolling mill, whilst everyone wanted a great deal more authority — else they already possessed in abundance, this being the West Coast of America — in Desmond Morris's new series, The Human Race (Thames).

Best of all is to be a Californian bishop and dress in the clothes of the European Counter-Reformation, that way you not only reach the altar untroubled down a broad division of the devout and get to christen the baby or confirm the child, but you are, Dr Morris told us, invested with the Authority of Time. Which brings us back to the Pope.

Despite a trick of speaking about the media as if it were a distasteful social disease, Peter France's Everyman patch, Peter France's doctrinal summary of Karel Wojtyla was instructive and sharp, the best programme of the night. The silliest, by far, was The Human Race, whose ingredients — freeways, tits, Vivaldi, bums, drums and sunset over the Bay — became as predictable as its analogies between primitive and sophisticated human and animal behaviour now seem glib, dated and banal.

QED, also new last night, should turn out less homogenized since it aims to popularize general science, medicine and technology in a different way each week: the first programme was fun, but fey. Wally K. Daly's play was unsentimental and touching: the pub clown died of cancer, and the son grew up in the days around the death. The message was that of Stewie Barstow and Elaine get out now, even if you come back later, and the boy died. Well acted by Mark Botham and Kenneth Farrington; producer, Imes Lloyd, director, Gerald Blake.

Michael Ratcliffe

Cinema

A creation of mankind

'Quest for Fire', already with cult status in the United States, opens in London tomorrow. George Perry interviews its director and investigates the extraordinary problems of location shooting

"For years I have wanted to do a film about mankind's start — the last lap before modern man," says Jean-Jacques Annaud, director of Quest for Fire. His film opens in London tomorrow after success in Annand's native Paris, and the United States, where it has assumed an immediate cult status. Prehistory has attracted film-makers before, but rarely seriously. "I looked at several — Raquel Welch with the dinosaurs in One Million Years BC and Prehistoric Women in their leather bikinis walking through a Shopperton forest." Annaud has used a novel by J. H. Rousy Senior, published in France in 1911, as the basis of his film, which attempts to conjure up a realistic paleolithic Europe 80,000 years ago, with vast, untamed plains and mountain ranges, swamps and dense forests, where herds of mammoths and sabre-toothed tigers are still extant, sharing existence with humans in various stages of development.

"Gérard Brach [Polanski's screenwriter on many films from Knife in the Water onwards], and I agreed that the book, as it stood, was a disaster, and we quickly left it behind. But there was something in it I loved — this sense of prehistoric fear."

"It's like science fiction without the technology, but with the feelings. Hardly anything is known of these early men, it is not hard to see that those with intelligence could win and survive. Possession of fire meant the ability to make metal tools, to cease to be primitive. There was something mystical about the flame. Once they had it they would keep it going for years — it mustn't die."

Brach and Annaud asked Anthony Burgess to devise a language for the film, so that the actors communicate in real words, rather than grunts. Burgess applied himself to the task of creating a prehistoric philology, with relish. Similarly, Desmond Morris was asked

to choreograph an appropriate body language, eliminating modern gestures. The actors are as yet little-known, and are as likely to be recognized in the street after this film as Daryl Valley, Everett McGill, who plays the leader, Naoh, Ron Perlman, the less bright Amoukar, and Nameer El-Kadi, the gentle Gaw, spent up to three hours each day before filming, having moulded their face masks to give their features an ape-like aspect. Perlman, a wry New Yorker, comments: "They stayed put, even in 115 degree heat, but it was murder if you had an itch. And you couldn't sweat through them. At the end of the day when they took them off there would be about a litre of perspiration inside."

Initially, the film was to have been shot in Iceland and Kenya, but a management shift at Columbia caused them to drop the project. Another company, Twentieth Century-Fox, picked it up but the Screen Actors' Guild strike foiled production. With changes of key personnel it then became a French-Canadian project (some scenes were actually shot in the case of the film, was substituted for Iceland. For months the cast faced conditions ranging from the bone-rattling chill of the Cairngorms to the baking heat of a Kenyan soda lake. In the case of the girl, Ray Dawn Chong, a coat of grey paint with chipmunk stripes. "If Jean-Jacques wants us to act miserable then he believes that the circumstances must be miserable," says Perlman after a hard day at Lake Magadi, near the Tamsania border. "It's very easy to find oneself making a modern gesture when you're barefoot on needle-sharp rocks."

"To get spontaneity from the actors," says Annaud, "we use a long lens for much of the time. Technique for the sake of the image, but they are not aware of the technique. I wanted them to feel free. This is not a film



Naoh (left), Gaw and Amoukar (Everett McGill, Nameer El-Kadi and Ron Perlman) take refuge from a tiger

with elaborate special effects — the lab technique did not fit the picture. The pleasure as a director comes from directing good actors and the editing.

"The hardest part was shooting with animals, particularly the elephants," Jimmy Chipperfield rounded up a number of circus elephants who were dispatched to the Scottish highlands and given hair-pieces and lengthy tusks to simulate mammoths. They were a disaster. On the first day they charged the wrong way, destroying the camera tent. Fourteen elephants trampled on the equipment boxes containing cameras, lenses, filters, spares worth thousands, and miraculously (a great tribute to the sturdiness of Samuelson's cases) not a single one was broken. On the second day again they went in an unexpected direction, straight into a morass, and one of their number nearly drowned. Filming was at a standstill while a hundred people tried to work out how to extricate an elephant from a Scottish bog, scarcely an everyday problem. On the third day the recalcitrant creatures attacked their costumes and tore their furry rugs off. On the fourth day they ran on past the camera and stamped the wardrobe

ent, much to the discomfort of those within, sheltering from the cold. Eventually the scene was completed in Canada.

Annaud is 38, infectious enthusiasm, at his best when the going is rough. He likes to regard himself as Alan Parker and Ridley Scott. Like them he was a highly successful director of television commercials. He dropped his lucrative career at roughly the same time as they did and moved into features. His first, a satire on war, colonialism in Africa, Black and White in Colour, won an Academy Award. His second was Coup de Tête, a send-up of bourgeois hypocrisy in a small French town. Quest for Fire is only his third film; he does not believe in churning them out.

"A very busy director will do a film a year. I'll do one every three. I believe in staying very close to my work — I think that must be a European attitude. I cannot plan out my career a long way ahead. In a way I admire people who can write another film while they are shooting one. Even as we sit here in this Nairobi restaurant at dinner, the only thing I have in the forefront of my mind is the scene that I shall be shooting tomorrow."

Beyond the Footlights

Lyric, Hammersmith

The Cambridge Footlights supply a perennial exception to the rule that lightning never strikes twice in the same place; and this constitutes a perennial hazard to each new generation of undergraduate entertainers emerging from the university stage only to be told they are not as good as Jack Hulbert, Jonathan Miller or John Cleese.

There is nothing in this show that tempts you to predict a glittering theatrical future for any of the five members of the company, but jointly their personalities and separate skills do form an effective company, and — an unusual merit in Oxbridge revue — they spend at least as much time in making fun of themselves as in having a jolly good old snarl at the world outside.

A strong sense of unjustified privilege runs through the show, as in Emma Thompson's hippophilic envy of working-class children who go to day schools and thus escape being separated from their ponies for three whole months, and Hugh Laurie's description of the

ideological torment he went through before accepting a whacking grant from the UGC. They even have a heartfelt blues on lacking anything to feel blue about.

Frequent projections of the placid Cambridge scene, together with a bulging teddy bear baring its teeth onstage, serve as a constant reminder that the five know where they are at and feel uneasy about it and when they move out of this cocoon it is with the knowledge of what they have learnt inside it.

The various boss figures bulging at the seams, certain of industry — are built up from the model of a tutor who cannot remember a student's surname but finds it deeply suspicious that his friends call him Kim. It is only one move from this collegiate ogre to the beaming executive who has just published a pamphlet on "Sacking for Pleasure", and the Cabinet resolution to dispatch Edward Fox to sort out the Argentines.

The specialist in top dogs is Stephen Fry, a harmless lanky figure who seems built for nothing more energetic than pouring out dry sherries, but who possesses an unnerving gift for repeating back harmless remarks as damaging admissions and allowing a charming smile to

freeze into a hangman's smirk.

The other theme running through the show is that of Victorian parody, as with an amended version of Dracula (the castle door is opened by a ghoul called Travolta), and a Dickensian last chapter where the orphaned heroine is reunited with her fatherly protector who briskly orders her down to the kitchens. These are mildly amusing as an education debate conducted in a stream of consciousness and a running gag featuring a sculpture called "Conversation Piece" which strikes its viewers dumb.

However, with the exception of the concluding Ayckbourn charade, there is nothing you could call hilarious; and too much nonsense dialogue and joke pronunciation. Emma Thompson, the most versatile of the team, makes up for their musical deficiency. Though, having said that, I must record Robert Bathurst's number "I want to shoot somebody famous" as the one item where the show breaks out of its undergraduate shell to say something direct and frightening about the life beyond it.

Irving Wardle

Concerts

Polish CO/
Maksymiuk

Barbican Hall

Within a short while, Jerry Maksymiuk and his Polish Chamber Orchestra have established themselves as firm favourites here, through records and visits. It is good to hear them so soon in the new Barbican Hall where they are playing two programmes. On Monday they are playing two programmes. On Monday they are playing two programmes. On Monday they are playing two programmes.

Except that the harpichord continuo gave, for my taste, rather too discreet support to his string colleagues, the performance of Handel's A major Concerto Grosso from the Op 6 set, typified Maksymiuk's musicianship.

The soft movement, was boldly dapper, almost foppish, yet so exactly controlled as to remain always well-mannered. The fugue, always its music in sharp exhilarating focus. The solo passages were exquisitely delivered by Jan Stanienda, as if to say "Trump that, Yehudi!"

On came Menuhin to play three concertos from Vivaldi's celebrated Op 8, and out came the trumpets. Menuhin excels in music which he has known for a long time, but does not often play at concerts; he loves it, especially if it is difficult, as much in these concertos as Maksymiuk did not allow him

to dawdle, but Menuhin was game, and gave us classical violin playing to clean the ears and ravish the senses.

His technique was tested to the full in the finale of the eleventh concerto in D, but he held his own (he even encouraged two movements). His musicianship was heard at its greatest in the C minor concerto called "Sospetto", whose manner closely approaches J. S. Bach. There was never a moment when Menuhin's audibility was in doubt, in a hall where soloists are supposed still to be acoustically underprivileged.

William Mann

Perlman/Canino

Festival Hall

When the C major Fantasy, D934, for violin and piano had its first performance, in Vienna in 1828, the year of Schubert's death, a small paper critic wrote: "The Divertimento for violin and piano derives from this, being, therefore, Stravinsky's reduction of his arrangement of Tchaikovsky's original pieces. In the hands of Messrs Perlman and Canino both composers survived these various processes well."

In this form the Divertimento is, in fact, an agreeably stringent set of four movements, and Monday's reading balanced an appreciation of the music's inventive wit with a wholly apt feeling of intellectual excitement. On melodic, harmonic and especially rhythmic planes Stravinsky makes countless departures from Tchaikovsky's texts, and we were led towards a profound understanding of their significance.

Max Harrison

Dance

Nureyev's Paris

When Rudolf Nureyev walks into the Paris Opera office at the Paris Opera in September next year he will be taking on one of the most difficult, but potentially rewarding, jobs to be found in the world of dance today. One of the oldest companies in Europe, the ballet of the Paris Opera can trace its foundation back to 1661. It has also proved in recent years to be one of the hardest to direct and, since the resignation of Serge Lifar in 1959, has seen a succession of directors, few of whom have lasted for more than a few years.

Throughout its history, which in the last decade has included at least one closure, and any number of strikes by both dancers and technicians, the dancers have maintained an astonishingly high level of technical attainment, as London audiences when the company visits Covent Garden in July this year. What it has lacked since the departure of Lifar in 1959, and with strong backing, to cope with the byzantine intrigues of the rigidly structured house, Nureyev, it is widely thought, will carry this kind of authority and has worked

previously with the incoming administrator, Massimo Bogdanovich. His contract runs for three years, starting with the 1982-83 season (Rosella Hightower, the outgoing director, whose resignation is effective from July this year, has agreed to stay on for one further season). Nureyev's contract requires him to be with the company for 180 days, roughly half the year, about 40 times each season.

He will be responsible for staging or choreographing one new production each year, and in a recent conversation he indicated that these were likely to be standard classical works. Likely stagings are his own productions of The Nutcracker and Romeo and Juliet. He also has in mind new productions of Swan Lake, but for this, rather than importing the production he made for the ballet of the Vienna Staatsoper, he spoke of mounting a version as close as possible to the 1895 Petipa original.

Another condition he has insisted on is the continuance of the regular seasons outside the Opera which have been a feature of High-tower's regime.

Judith Cruickshank

Art Blakey

Ronnie Scott's

To most bandleaders, the problem of replacing the prodigious Marsalis brothers, whose own ensemble made its bow in New York last week, would have been terrifying. For Art Blakey, however, it is merely another chapter in the history of the Jazz Messengers since 1954; wisely, he uses such goings and comings to maintain the group in a constant state of creative alertness.

The holdovers from the Messengers who so memorably visited Frith Street towards the end of last year are Bill Pierce, the tenor saxophonist whose gravity and self-possession never distill into mere solemnity, and whose ideas are so complex as to suggest those of Warne Marsh translated to a hard-bop context, and Charles Fambrough, now perhaps the best double-bassist of his kind, who is to say that he can walk a 4/4 with huge authority and considerable imagination.

To fill the gaps in the front

Jazz

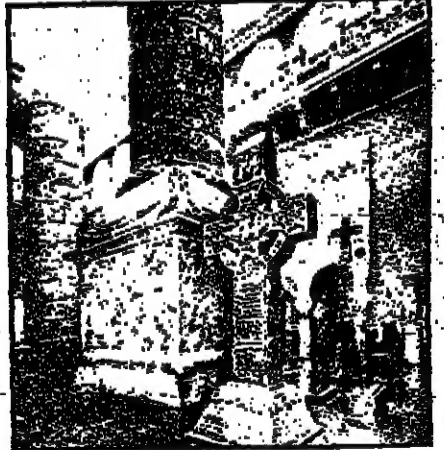
line left by the departing Marsalises, Blakey has gone to the same source: the trumpeter Terry Blanchard and the alto saxophonist Donald Harrison are both young men from New Orleans, and although it would be devaluing recent (and carefully chosen) superlatives to compare them favourably with their immediate predecessors, they give the same impression of being all gassed up and ready to burn rubber.

Blanchard has some of Wynton Marsalis's audacity, tempered with a likable diffidence; his momentum splutters sometimes, but ideas cartwheel off at unexpected tangents. At the moment, Harrison is the more interesting player; he has a big, commanding tone, full of life, and allows a careering up-tempo line to splinter into seemingly opposed but brilliantly linked fragments. Together with Pierce, they maintain throughout the unit's outstanding repertoire the sense of barely suppressed ensemble power which was a hallmark of the last line-up.

Richard Williams

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THE WASHINGTON POST

Henry Fairlie reports on the surge of pro-British feeling in Washington over the Falklands

By jingo, we're all rooting for you

Members of the numerous but not usually very gregarious British community in Washington were by last Saturday closing ranks. Expatriates who have not thought of home for years met and abruptly asked each other if they had yet enlisted. Even those who have all but renounced their allegiance to the Queen for the pecuniary rewards of working as an international civil servant in the World Bank had a rush of blood to their heads.

A rather dour acquaintance, who one has always suspected must have come here after being cashiered from the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers for an unappealing offence, brightened appreciably as he said: "I did not think that there would ever again be the occasion to fight for the empire." Another waxed with indignation as he corrected an American: "By God, man, do you not understand that it is a crown colony?"

There were 50 princesses in the city on Saturday, each from a different state, celebrating the annual cherry blossom festival. But not even they could compete with the news, which, with pardonable exaggeration, was whispered through the crowds on Constitution Avenue: "Prince Andrew is leading the Queen's Navy". It was an affecting day for Her Majesty's subjects here but what mattered more was how it affected the Americans.

We had steeled ourselves to meet the attempts at a graceless and disparaging humour. In the opening to almost every story the Falkland Islands were described as "remote" or "obscure". Washington's own and very funny political satirist, Mr Mark Russell, a nightclub performer, appeared on Saturday. He began by suggesting that Mr Alexander Haig had difficulty in finding where the islands were.

An Englishman shouted a warning that HMS Invincible was on its way. It was a shot across Mr Russell's bows, which he seemed deliberately to mishear.

"HMS Principal?" he queried with a sniff, or did he mean "HMS Principle"? Backed by the huzzas of a few of our countrymen, even less numerous than the garrison on the Falklands, the Englishman warned that they were an advance naval party.

It seemed clear that we were to be met only "with scoffs, and scorn, and contemptuous taunts". But when Mr Russell at last came to sing his ditty about the evil aggression, he had a pleasant and even exhilarating surprise in his four stanzas. He writes his new material in response to the day's events quickly. But his song on his feet had altered the shot across his bows.

He had set his words to a jaunty, rather Gilbert-and-Sullivan martial air, but not one word failed to punch home. In his first

No-one could compete with the news: 'Prince Andrew is leading the Queen's Navy'

stanza, he flayed Argentina, savagely mocking its pretensions. Listing the components of its invasion force, he concluded with "the cast of *Evita*". The brave huzzas of the small British contingent were now drowned by the swelling chorus of high-spirited Yankee support.

In his second stanza, his tinkling on the piano only reinforcing his words, he fired his broadside. Having once held back the Nazis single-handed, the British were now being invaded by the Nazis' grandsons. As he let the last line fly — something like "The grandsons of Bormann and Hitler, et al" — the Yankee laughter broke into cheers. George III could have entered the party and been carried shoulder-high.

So to the parting shot in the last line of the song. The British

had discovered that the invasion was an Irish plot. There could have been no more unexpected or funnier ending. But the laughter which erupted also carried wave after wave of resounding cheers. Unmistakably they were anti-Argentina and pro-British. The Englishman who had led the first assault with his small band felt like Sir Roger Keyes at Zeebrugge.

The party was being held to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the opening of a bar near the White House, used mainly by politicians and journalists and those who hang about the margins of both professions. Therefore most of the packed audience were regulars who are politically sensitive, which means that their reactions may not be characteristic of ordinary Americans. But it no less means that they are interesting.

One could feel the two unmistakable sentiments being woven together by Mr Russell: the surge of pro-British feeling that simply warmed the cockles of one's heart; and the release of a pent-up impatience and disgust with all the shabby dictatorships of Latin America. The mastery in Mr Russell's song was precisely the linking of Britain's stand against the Nazis who fled to Argentina to all the wretched South American dictatorships.

Even if the audience was politically uncharacteristic in its sophistication and sensitivity, it was composed mostly of people who to some degree both register and form public opinion. There is a growing distaste and resentment in the United States at the way the Administration seem willing to truckle to any corrupt and violent regime if only it can present right-wing credentials to satisfy Mr Reagan.

If the British throw the Argentines out of the Falkland Islands, more Americans than perhaps Mr Reagan realizes will stand up and cheer. They cheered and even marvelled when the British in one afternoon repossessed an embassy in London, while all the power of

the US could not get its own people out of its own embassy in Tehran. They will cheer again if the British, in a famous metaphor, now hit the Argentines for six.

One returns then to the serious expressions of opinions here. The newspapers begin by making allowance for what *The New York Times* calls "the comic-opera aspects of the event". *The Washington Post* on Sunday could not decide how to place these comic aspects. On its front page, it referred to the whole affair as "a cross between a nineteenth century melodrama and a Peter Sellers farce". In its editorial, it said that the crisis has "an Alec Guinness quality".

But before *The Washington Post* discovers that it is all much more like Margaret Thatcher in an Agatha Christie film — or the *Goon Show* or even *Itma*, if its memory stretched back so far — one must read on to what these solemn organs of opinion have really said in the intensity of their first animadversions. They are clearly and firmly pro-British and anti-Argentina, and add the weight to Mr Russell's act and his audience's response.

Mrs Thatcher needs the voice of Elizabeth I to her army at Tilbury...

The Washington Post says: "The British do not appear to be in a mood to be pushed around; the Brits have nothing to apologize for in the Falklands". It goes on: "Argentina committed aggression. By doing so it removes itself from consideration as an American partner in other hemispheric matters". What one must notice again are the complementary wishes that Argentina and not Britain should be humiliated.

The New York Times says of Argentina: "Beyond that, the Administration will have to think

seriously about its relations with a regime that for all its verbal tirades against communism, provides grain and comfort to the Soviet Union, but maintains human rights embassies and military armaments to its western friends". All of these reactions are vital. The British need to realize that they do not only have sympathy here but can have support.

This is a time for the British Government to play skillfully but with candour on American opinion. Having launched a large naval force, it must intend, and be seen to be intending, the exercise of power it represents. Her Majesty's Ministers cannot let Prince Andrew lead the charge — for that is the symbol on which Americans have fixed — and then order him to retreat like the Grand Old Duke of York.

Britain can command wide popular and deeply informed support here. It cannot pursue its ends only through an American Administration which has soiled and tied its hands in Latin America. There is a potential public support for Britain here as it has not really existed since the Suez operation. If the Americans cannot win these days, then, by jingo, they are rooting for the British to win.

What is needed from Mrs Thatcher is the voice of Queen Elizabeth I to her army at Tilbury: "I know I have the body of a weak and feeble woman, but I have the heart and stomach of a king, and of a king of England too, and think foul scorn that Parma or Spain, or any prince of Europe should dare to invade the borders of my realm; to which rather than any dishonour shall grow by me, I myself will take up arms".

And I may also be allowed to speak for the British colony here: "Your Majesty, your loyal subjects here are ready, a small contingent, but with our right swords, last used at Malton Moor in defence of the Crown, already taken from the walls".

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One person one vote: the only way for Labour

Democracy is breaking out all over the Labour Party, but in some unexpected and certainly unplanned ways. That is the main finding of the first report to be published on how constituencies voted in last year's deputy leadership contest. Today, the report goes to Labour's NEC with a request for action.

It was the famous Wembley Conference which decided on a change in how Labour's leaders should be elected. In place of a franchise limited to MPs, power was to be shared with the trade unions and constituency parties. No decision was taken on how the voting should be conducted in these two sections, although it was the intention of some to limit the franchise to the small core of activists who make up each local party's governing body — the general committee. That is not how the reform has worked out in practice.

After all the ballyhoo of electing the deputy leader had died down, we wrote in *Labour's* three weeklies asking for information on parties who extended the franchise beyond the hard core of activists. Forty-nine constituencies replied. Twenty-one constituencies organized a one person, one vote system because they believed this was the only way party members would be able to have a say in the contest. Some members argued against the postal ballot on the grounds that an important principle was at stake and that only those who were prepared to give the minimum support of coming to a meeting should be allowed to vote.

Most of the 21 constituencies organized a postal vote. Three constituencies organized a ballot on the basis of local and general election procedures. Postal balloting certainly led to a higher turn-out, involving often more than two-thirds of the membership.

A total of 19 constituencies carried out branch ballots, but, surprisingly, there was no single way branches undertook to consult their members.

Some branches invited people to the branch meeting, and those unable to attend gained no vote. Others organized voting by mail, but, surprisingly, they allowed a postal ballot for those unable to come. Others organized the vote at their regular branch meeting and took the ballot box round to those members not in attendance. There was variation, too, on how the votes were cast, at the branch meeting. Some branches conducted a secret ballot while others had a show of hands.

Some branches organized transport for members who would otherwise be unable to come, and this kind of offer, together with how well the branch organized itself, helps to account for the difference in turn-out at branch meetings. One branch reported a turn-out of 77 per cent of those eligible to vote, while another recorded a turn-out as low as 20 per cent.

Nine parties held a mass meeting of members to decide their choice for deputy leader. Most made it a big event with a number of attractions other than voting for the deputy leader.

One of the unexpected consequences of the electoral college is that it has brought into being different classes of ordinary Labour Party members — those who vote in constituency elections and those who cannot. Some members are given the vote in leadership contests while others are disenfranchised, unless they are on their local party's general committee.

The NEC needs to act to ensure that all party mem-

bers have equal rights in electing the leadership. The only way forward is for the NEC to back the principle of one person, one vote and to lay down guidelines on how votes should be cast in the constituency section before any future contest is held in the electoral college.

Our survey showed there are four important issues on which the NEC should rule: (i) Who is eligible? Many parties reported difficulty in deciding who was and who was not eligible to vote. Some decided that members had to be of 12 months' standing. Others of six months' standing, while some parties settled for anybody who held a current membership card. (ii) How to count? There was also a wide variation on how the votes were counted and what they meant once they were counted. Deciding where to count the votes can affect the outcome. Small branches, again, a disproportionate representation on general committees by mandating their general committee delegates, to some extent, leads to local party supporters, and those who, while gaining a majority of votes, on the general committee, was supported by only a minority of individual branch votes.

(iii) What timetable? It is important to lay down a timetable for future contests. Not only is this desirable so that campaigns don't rumble on for six or more months, but it is also crucial in getting information to local members. One constituency reported that those branches which met early in the month decided their votes before the literature from candidates arrived.

(iv) Rigging the result: In view of the lack of postal votes, some constituency parties believed less than openly. One party member wrote to say that there was no mention of the leadership contest at her branch meeting until she raised the question.

Without clear ground rules the chances are that poorer members will be excluded. We know that the poor are less likely to attend meetings than other people, and in these, as in other circumstances, a postal vote is essential. Indeed, this was the view to which some members came after they had organized a branch ballot.

After completing our survey other parties told us that this too had extended the franchise to ordinary members. And already a number of parties which did not do so last time have decided to ballot all their members in any future contest. Most of the parties regard one person, one vote as a way of making democratic decisions. This principle is now being firmly rooted in the electoral college. The NEC should issue guidelines to encourage its spread to all constituency parties and standardise the form of the election procedure.

David Cowling and Frank Field. David Cowling is research assistant to Mr Peter Shore. Frank Field is Labour MP for Birkenhead.

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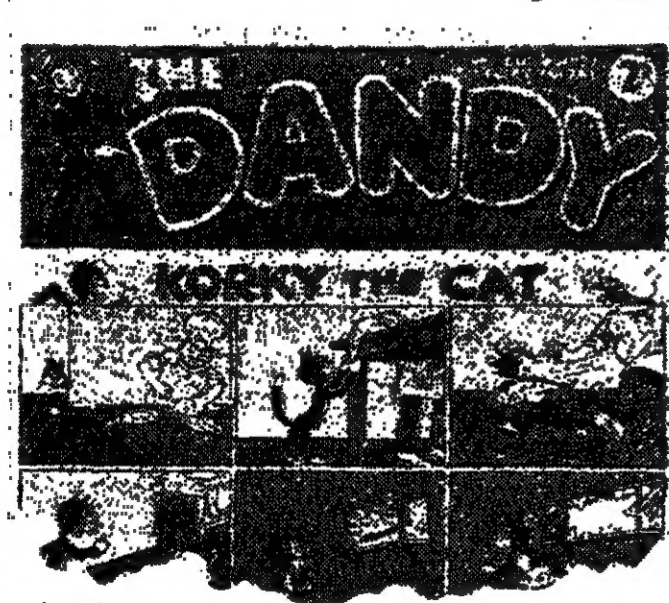
The man who came up with a corker

by Alan Hamilton

The man who gave the world *Desperate Dan* retires this week after 45 years in the editor's chair of what was once the world's largest selling children's comic.

Dan, the cowboy of superhuman strength and stupendous cactus who exists on a diet of cow pie with the horns and tail projecting through the pastry, was the creation of Albert Barnes, who edited the first issue of *The Dandy* on December 4, 1937, from that citadel of old-fashioned Presbyterian values, the Dundee publishing house of D. C. Thomson. Barnes has run the curiously unchanging *Dandy* ever since, except for a year of war service when the chair was occupied by his assistant, George Thomson, a young man of promise who eventually ascended, by way of the European Commission, to the chairmanship of the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

"Desperate Dan was the roughest, toughest cowboy. He was to be the strongest man in the world; a man who could chew iron and spit rust. I told the artist to base him on me and give him a chin like a chest of drawers", Barnes recalls. Thomsons wanted a picture comic for children, aged six to 10, of equal appeal to boys and girls, to complement their "famous five" clutch of children's story papers, *Wizard*, *Hotspur*, *Rover*, *Adventure* and *Skipper*. It was an innovation in the world of children's comics, and was followed some



Comic turns: left, the first issue of *The Dandy* in 1937, and right, the 1982 version. Can you tell the difference?



months later by an equally famous stablemate, *Beano*. Only *Desperate Dan* and *Korky the Cat* survive from the original cast of characters. Keyhole Kate and Hungry Horace are no more, and another early character, an unfortunately named youth called Invisible Dick, has disappeared. But the style has changed little. Simple, identifiable characters tripping through banana skin and water pistol humour scoring points over parents, teachers and policemen. But no-one ever really gets hurt. "There is never any real violence, only the cartoon

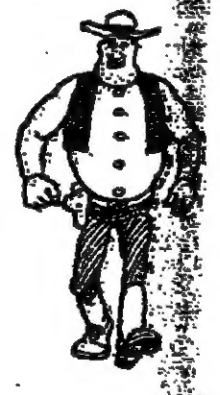
kind to be found in *Tom and Jerry* where the victim always springs back unharmed", Barnes said. It gives children a chance to cock a snoot at authority, and sublimates their desires to kick against the traces. Sex, religion and politics are, of course, out altogether.

Well, more or less. Black Bob, the *Dandy* wonder dog, was recently kidnapped and taken to Argentina, adding fuel to the suspicion that, deep down, Argentines have always been regarded as stereotypical baddies. Authority has occasionally objected to the rubber bricks

children's comic market. *The Dandy* is unlikely to see again its heyday of nearly 1950s when it was selling 2.2 million copies a week. Thomsons claim that no comic in the world, before or since, has equalled that circulation.

D. C. Thomson, whose flagship, the *Dundee Courier*, remains the only British daily newspaper with front page of small advertisements, are deeply secretive about circulation figures. That is known is that a quarter of the *Dandy* readership turns over each year.

Barnes's successor, David Torrie, will hope for a regular supply of one-year-olds ready to enter the world of biffs, yikes and bargs, of Greedy Pig and Screw Driver, where every sentence ends with an exclamation mark and the threat of violence is a slipper on the backside.



Pensioners as pioneers

Some of the Falkland Islands' early settlers were Chelsea pensioners. A number of the help families now under Argentine military rule are descendants of a detachment of Chelsea pensioners sent to the Falklands by the War Office as garrison colonists in 1849.

Most of the 30 married veterans chosen for the experiment were Chelsea out-pensioners. They were given prefabricated wooden houses, initial supplies of fuel and food and 10 acres of land. At first most of them hated it.

Yet when the opportunity was given a few years later to return to England, only a few did so. Some had become good gardeners and others found work in the growing ship-repairing industry. Age was on their side: most of the pensioners were in their early forties or younger and one, James Brown, pensioner and carpenter, was only 24.

Corned beef corner

It may prove difficult, in the two or three weeks it will take the naval task force to reach the Falklands, to keep up the spirit of jingoism and bellicosity which has swept the nation.

Today's jingoistic gesture will, I fear, take some of the cheerfulness out of national pride. As a token of how seriously it regards the crisis, the English Tourist Board has decided to suspend the

advertisement of its Maritime England promotion, perhaps feeling it makes too poignant a reminder of past naval greatness.

On the other hand, pays to know your enemy and the Argentines do, from a safe distance, seem to be a rather loathsome lot. You will have read yesterday about the murderous Rivero, in whose honour Port Stanley is now renamed. He is, I know, not the Argentines' only folk hero with a distinctly doubtful past.

As contribution to the national, but I hope temporary was effort, PHS will continue to welcome items of information harmful to Argentina, and news of any ferocity laudable or laughable, here at home.

A plum of P.G.

Through his unjust disgrace in the war and his long years in exile, P.G. Wodehouse had one loyal fan — the Queen of England. Last night the Queen Mother paid a private and unannounced visit to the *World of Wodehouse* exhibition at the National Theatre, an attraction open freely to all who visit the building.

The Queen Mother is an avid reader of Wodehouse, and collects his books in her library in Scotland. She has almost all his tremendous output.

In case Her Majesty should fancy a further treat, PHS recommends *Words by Wodehouse*, for which David Ryall does, hairless wig and does a plum of an impersonation. It is the early evening platform performance in the Olivier Theatre on April 14 and 21.

THE TIMES DIARY



The British Standards Institution has set a new standard for British music. This new standard is intended to encourage the destruction of Peter Maxwell Davies and Harrison Birtwistle. BS 4754 applies only to the way scores and parts are presented.

Scores to British standard will

henceforward be clear enough for double bass players to read without straining forward; printed on paper thick enough for the next page of notes not to show through; and in ink waterproof enough for Handel's *Water Music*.

The standard gives guidance on how note spacing, slurs, ties and crescendos should be represented, and takes a particularly firm line, I hear, on silences.

Chain of events

A complete glossary of health and hygiene — from Abatement notice to Zwitterion (an iron carrying both positive and negative charges, present in some detergents) — proves a rich midden of scatological information. Prepared by Mr Colin Lucas and published by Rentokil at £15, *Hygiene in Buildings* traces the history of the lavatory from the Koossos latrines, built for King Minos 3,500 years ago.

Choice pickings include the Human Lavatory — a medieval public servant who walked the streets in an immense cape which he could use to cover his customers and the pail he was carrying; and the dreadful fate of Richard the Raker, a gonfongier employed to clean latrines and cesspits who in 1326 fell through the "dreadful" planks in his own privy and "drowned" noisily in his own excrement.

In a book full of villainous material, the few heroes include

Thomas Crapper, who did the drains at Sandringham and possibly gave the language a new word; Thomas Twyford, who developed the Unifit and the ornate Deluge; and Sir John Harrington who required only "half a tunne of water to keep all sweete and savourie" and who wrote the *Metamorphosis of Ajax* devoted to his invention, the WC. For the squeamish there is also a good gathering of euphemisms, such as dinkum dunnie, picaninny kiah, Les Vaters, cuzes, cozzies, jakes and Jericho, all of which mean much the same in one part of the world or another.

Haughtier cuisine

Culinary quaintness and rumble-dumplings are out in Scotland this year, according to Colonel Pat Paterson who runs Taste of Scotland. Two new dishes created this year for inclusion in the brochure are Beef Nan Eilan — a mixture of lamb and fillet of beef with contrasting cream and

pickled walnut sauces — and parsnip mousse with West Coast prawns. A haughtier cuisine, at any rate, than Cullen skink and haddowdie.

Leaking boards

Very wet Wales, and Dafydd Wigley, Plaid Cymru president, and MP for Caernarfon, may have discovered the reason. He complains that while British water boards generally waste about a quarter of the water, the Welsh Water Authority loses an average of a third, and in some places, a half.

The Government yesterday claimed all maps of the Falklands from Edward Stanford, the map-sellers in Long Acre, to help it handle the crisis. An official from the Directorate of Overseas Surveys called at the shop and hurried away with about 80 maps.

The memoir face

Joseph Gormley's autobiography, *Battered Cherub*, was appropriately written with the most modern aids to productivity. Like every good unionist Gormley had a mate on the job — ghost-writer Jeremy Hornsby, who previously worked with the disc jockey Pete Murray to produce *One Day I'll Forget Me*. *Trouser*, a volume most memorable for the cover photograph of its subject in underpants and suspenders. Gormley, finding himself a rich vein put some half a million words on 50 tape cassettes. Hornsby sieved out the noisy slack over four years with a word

processor, and his discs fuelled the computerized typesetting, making Gormley one of the first books on the general lists to be produced by the new technology.

Falling star

Residents of New Jersey take a dim view of the twilight of the stars. For its centenary the Actors Fund of America put on a television show and raised \$2m for the elderly residents of its retirement home, but now plans for a nursing home next to the residence have been scuttled. The Actors Fund said it could fill its 50-bed nursing home at a fee of about \$100 a day, only about a third of what elderly actors have to pay locally at present if they fall sick.

The neighbours, who have been happy to have some of the past in their area for the last 20 years, objected in a twinkling. Mayor Sandra Greenberg said: "When I first heard of their plan for a residence I applauded it, but elderly and sickly stars from around the country would certainly impact adversely on this high-class neighbourhood."

Missing minutes

Four Oscars and Jewish praise for *Chariots of Fire* have been insufficient to restore 40 missing minutes to the film. It was out from a length of more than two hours for its cinema release at the insistence of Twentieth Century Fox, which shared the \$6m budget for the film with the offshoot of an Egyptian shipping company.

The producer, David Putnam,

having lost his battles with Fox's nervous attitude, was delighted to hear, when the RFE started negotiating the purchase of television rights, that it would be interested in an extended version, using discarded footage.

Despite Putnam's wholehearted support for the others, for a while he vetoed it, saying that it would establish an unwelcome precedent.

There is still cause to be grateful to Fox. The BBC was among those in Britain who approached it in the first place for a screening of *Chariots*, and another American studio rejected the project as "a real disaster with no viability at all in the American marketplace because of style and tone as well as subject matter."

The eatable?

The Pet Food Manufacturers' Association announces that it will be the starting of offest from slaughterhouses, which, it says, would "make finished pet food products unacceptable to the pet owner". PHS would hope so, too, but, horrors, the association goes on to say it has told the Government about "the important implications" such a change would have on the human food chain. "What is going on in this country? Are people eating the pet foods or the pets? I think we should be told."

Is the insurance business developing a conscience? A reader sends me a circular which says: "We are the main features of the *Cruiser's*, *Revolutionary* and *Guilt-Edged Plan*."

PHS

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Labour



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS

While British ships steam south through the Atlantic and the Argentines continue their efforts to fortify the islands there will be a great deal of diplomatic activity. Among other things, Britain and Argentina will be trying to rally support for their case. But it will also be a good time to consider not only what should be done when the task force reaches the Falklands but also what Britain hopes to achieve thereafter.

The immediate objective is quite clear. It is to reverse the fait accompli imposed on the islands last Friday, and in the process to show General Galtieri that such naked acts of aggression are wholly unacceptable. That is of the greatest importance. There are small countries and territories in many parts of the world, not least in Latin America itself which would be at risk if it was felt that the generals in Buenos Aires had got away with this invasion. They chose to send troops against a small and defenceless people, the citizens of a country with which they had apparently friendly relations and with which they were holding negotiations for a peaceful settlement.

But once an Argentine withdrawal has been achieved, either through diplomacy or by force, what still leaves the Falklands. Do we want to maintain them indefinitely as a British possession, comparable to an Isle of Man 8,000 miles away, regardless of the

cost? Or do we take the view that in the long run they are too far away and too unimportant, and that they should therefore be based into some sort of congenial relationship with Argentina? The second course is the one which has been followed in recent years by both Conservative and Labour governments. It led to a situation in which the islands were very much dependent on the good will of Argentina, even before last Friday's attack. Apart from a ship which sailed from Tilbury four times a year, the only regular communications with the outside world were the weekly flights to and from Comodoro Rivadavia provided by the Argentine Air Force.

That was not a bad policy in itself. Admittedly it had the disadvantage of giving General Galtieri and his colleagues the impression that the British government was anxious to be rid of the Falklands, which may have encouraged them to miscalculate. But the miscalculation was not an inevitable result of the policy. If the British government had shown at an earlier stage that it was determined to defend the islands there could still have been progress.

Much will now depend on the circumstances in which, if all goes well, the Argentines are induced to depart. If they have been humiliated, they will remain uncooperative for some time. Britain will then have to maintain an active defence of the islands against

a possible new attempt at invasion, and also replace the services which were provided by Argentina before the invasion. It can be done. But it would be an expensive commitment to maintain over a long period.

At some point, therefore, it will be necessary to try to restore links between the islands and Argentina. This will not be easy, especially if there has been fighting. Obviously diplomatic relations would have to be restored first. But it would not be the first time in history that a showdown, whether diplomatic or military, had clarified a relationship and in the period of reconstruction provided a more realistic basis for negotiation. At all times, however, we would have to face up to the possibility that such attempts would be unsuccessful. Our future policy for the Falklands can never again be allowed to depend on an Argentine veto.

It is not too early to look ahead in this way, even though the immediate future is murky. Britain did not seek or provoke a conflict with Argentina and has no wish for a long period of hostility. It must assert its rights and the principles of international law without compromise but at the same time it should make clear its desire to return as soon as possible to normal relations with Argentina. This can be achieved only if the Argentines have the same aim. The burden of proof now lies with them.

WHO'S AFRAID OF A BIG BAD BALLOT?

Of all the days of the year to select to beat the drum for a national campaign which has been slow to catch fire, Monday must have been among the most unlucky. With the fleet sailing off to glory and ministers tumbling, the country had little attention to spare for the metaphorical militancy on display at the TUC's special conference on the Employment Bill. "There will be risks, there may be casualties, we may get knocked, but we will give as good as we get," declared Mr Murray with native caution setting his sights before battle rather than the other way round.

The programme of action against the Bill, agreed with acclaim by all but a few of the unions represented, is also anything but bloodthirsty. The TUC General Council drafted it with concern not to encourage the movement's aircraft carriers to steer outside the territorial waters of legality. This showed good sense, but can have done little to persuade ordinary trade unionists with more urgent anxieties about the security of their jobs that the proposed reforms seriously amount to "a manifesto for a union-free society", as Mr Murray put it. He rejected a policy of using industrial action to bring a government down undemocratically. Other speakers, like Mr Arthur Scargill and Mr Joe Wadsworth, disregarded his lead and spoke unthinkingly about the possibility of breaking the law in the struggle against the Bill. Major campaigns of industrial action against it, as

advocated by a number of delegates, would be illegal within the terms of the Bill itself, even if not of the existing laws on political strikes and secondary action. The Bill is deftly drafted to minimise the need for active union co-operation: it will exist and influence their calculations and actions whether they like it or not, and even if employers prove reluctant, as they often may, to go to court on the strength of its provisions.

The prevailing atmosphere made Mr Murray sound pallid, and the voices which urged the dangers of a long and costly campaign embarked on without strong rank and file support were few and faint. One of the most revealing phrases of the day came when Mr Murray described the Bill as an attempt to drive a wedge between unions and their members. Some of its provisions, in particular those designed to encourage unions to test by ballot whether existing closed shops still command support among members, can indeed claim to be so. But a rift has been driven into it, and the popularity of the closed shop, as well as of other equally rough and ready means of imposing union discipline, is widespread inside the movement as well as out. It is a standing reproach to the trade unions that the abandonment of such practices should need to wait for a nudge from legislation.

The truth is that the Bill is

modest in its scope and its likely effects. While this hampers the campaign to present it as a threat to trade unionism as such, it also means that many reforms which would still further improve accountability have been omitted. Only last week, Mr Norman Tebbit said that his mind was not fully closed to the possibility of adding a clause to encourage the use of strike ballots in place of the factory-gate votes which are so easily manipulated. Balloting for union elections is a reform whose effects might be even more profound. Even where it does occur, balloting today is too often inadequately supervised. In the short term, legislation on these matters might tend to add them to the category of things that trade unionists refuse to see any good in because Mr Tebbit favours them. It might also increase the scope for calculated defiance and the creation of martyrs; but nothing would do more to make the movement more truly representative. The longer term, advantages would thus be manifest. If the trade union leadership wants to claim that it truly represents its members, it would be more convincing if it did not object to measures which would provide evidence for that claim. Of course they would not, but the evidence would undermine their claim, and thus their leadership. Let us have the evidence by introducing much more provision for balloting, both about strikes, and about leadership.

Postal watchdog

From the Chairman of the Post Office Users' National Council
Sir, In his observations on the Government's consultative document on consumers' interest and the nationalised industries (article, March 15), Mr Alex Henney, Chairman of the London Electricity Consumers' Council, bemoans the absence of any proposals to give arbitration powers on the nationalised industry consumer councils.

It is arguable whether the duty of arbitration is one which is proper to a consumer council. I think it is not. The council acts principally as an advocate of the consumer's case. It could not easily act as arbiter as well. Customers would be entitled to question the extent of the commitment to representing their interests.

The issue does not however arise for users of Post Office and British Telecom services. Under the Codes of Practice for Postal and Telecommunications Services published in 1979, customers may pursue unresolved claims for redress through a scheme of arbitration operated independently by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. Whilst the arbitrator's recommendations were not legally binding, both parties declared that they would normally be honour bound to accept them.

This offers customers seeking redress a cheap and simple way of resolving disputes avoiding the need to make a personal appearance at a court. We are about to start discussions with British Telecom aimed at similar arrangements in respect of their legal liabilities under the BT Act.

We consider these arbitration facilities are an important feature of the machinery for dealing with customers' complaints and are pleased to have had some part in establishing them.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MORGAN, Chairman,
Post Office Users' National Council,
Waterloo Bridge House,
Waterloo Road, SE1.

Ecosystems

From Professor C. D. Pigott
Sir, Your correspondent Dr A. S. Thomas (March 17) in his strongly worded criticism of the term ecosystem shows that he does not understand its meaning. Perhaps he has forgotten, or perhaps never read, the article written by Sir Arthur Tansley in 1935 in which the word was introduced and defined with admirable clarity.

Tansley proposed the word to describe a particular level of organization of natural systems in which vegetation, animals and the physical environment are linked together by the transfer of energy and materials. Tansley recognized the difficulty of defining the boundaries of ecosystems for, in a sense, the world is an ecosystem, but he proposed that the term was more usefully applied to those much smaller systems in which net transfer of material across the boundaries is minimal.

For example, in an unexploited woodland the amount of carbon dioxide fixed by the green plants may, over a period of a year, be balanced by the amount released by respiration of all the organisms in the woodland, so that net transfer in respect of this gas is zero. But, of course, the gas in the atmosphere means that most ecosystems share a common reservoir.

Uptake of phosphate by the plants of the woodland may be almost entirely from the supply provided by decay, so that in this case the system may be virtually self-contained. Animals may indeed move in and out of the woodland yet their population averaged over a number of years may remain more or less constant. Ecosystems are not entirely self-contained, or "closed", and never could be because all depend on an input of solar energy and the eventual dissipation of this energy as heat.

By repeatedly using the word "may" I am, in fact, drawing attention to the value of recognizing ecosystems. By analysis of their structure and by measurement of the amounts of substances in their parts and of the rates of transfer the extent to which the system is in balance can be discovered. This provides essential information for the sensible exploitation of ecosystems, allowing their structure to be sustained and their productivity maintained or even increased. An ecosystem is still an ecosystem even when it is not in equilibrium.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD PIGOTT,
Department of Biological Sciences,
The University,
Lancaster,
March 25.

Glue-sniffing and solvent abuse

From Mr N. C. MacDonald

Sir, Mr Allan Roberts, MP (report April 1) is following a path trodden by many politicians, in this country and overseas, in believing that the use of aversive additives in solvent-based products will eliminate or control solvent abuse.

To be acceptable any additive must meet three criteria. It should not enhance in any way the health risk of the preparation to which it is added. It should not interfere with the acceptability of a preparation by those who will use it. It should not detract from its intended purpose. Finally, any additive should not detract from service performance of the preparation, and in this case we mean the adhesive strength.

My company has investigated the whole use of aversive additives, and volatile organic chemicals with characteristic nauseating odours are most commonly thought of in this connection; allyl isothiocyanate, which occurs naturally as a component of oil of mustard, has been used in adhesives in certain parts of the United States.

All evidence indicates that substances of this type are either ineffective at safe levels of use or have only a transient aversive effect at higher or more dangerous concentrations, as well as interfering with the normal use and performance of the adhesive to which they are added. In West Germany another type of so-called aversive agent was added to a solvent-based product as a panic reaction to an outbreak of solvent abuse in West Berlin. The result was an increase in the incidence of toxicity amongst sniffers.

To suggest, as Mr Roberts does, that there is a paucity of information on the subject is to misrepresent the facts. My company's research has revealed around 300 references from many authoritative sources in this country and others.

At the same time we in the industry continue our search to develop alternative systems which are intrinsically safer from abuse and I would stress that this positive approach to the problem has been receiving attention in my company for several years. I should be pleased to discuss the whole subject with you to tackle the symptoms of the malaise in a less than rational way, whilst ignoring the disease itself.

Yours sincerely,
N. C. MACDONALD,
Director (Technical),
Evode Limited,
Common Road,
Stafford.

Freedom of the media

From Mr Jacob Ecclestone
Sir, You will, I hope, allow me to reply to the letter (April 3) from Mr Farmer, General Secretary of the Institute of Journalists, concerning my refusal to admit your correspondent to cover our recent annual conference.

As a matter of policy my union asks other trade unions to admit only NUJ members to cover their meetings. We do so because the NUJ is a trade union and it is not affiliated to either the TUC or the International Federation of Journalists and can make no such claim. It would, therefore, be absurdly inconsistent if we were to admit a member of the IOJ to report on our annual delegate meeting.

For Mr Farmer to assert that the leadership of the NUJ would use the closed shop in journalism "to silence opposition in the media" is ludicrous. As he knows perfectly well, my union's own journal is so independent of the NUJ leadership that it frequently makes life uncomfortable and embarrassing for us by exercising "editorial independence" and such independence guarantees — an independence that recent events have shown is not enjoyed by many editors in Fleet Street.

That is only our domestic situation. The NUJ operates many closed shops already, including several in national newspapers, and in none of them could Mr Farmer find evidence to substantiate his allegations. Yours, etc.
JACOB ECCLESTONE,
Deputy General Secretary,
National Union of Journalists,
45, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.
314-320 Gray's Inn Road, WC1.
April 5.

One nation

From Dr C. Goodson-Wickes
Sir, What better way is there to forge the One Nation that you seek (leading article, March 30), than to reintroduce a form of national service?

Cooperation between white and black citizens in such a framework would surely go far to promote new and better attitudes at an impressionable age. Yours faithfully,
C. GOODSON-WICKES,
35A Jermyn Street,
St James's, SW1.

Ulster assembly plan

From Mr Tom Arnold, MP for Hazel Grove (Conservative)

Sir, The Prime Minister has made it clear on a number of occasions that Northern Ireland will remain a part of the United Kingdom for as long as that is the wish of the majority of the people of Northern Ireland. The guarantee is firm and should not be in doubt.

There is no immediate contradiction, therefore, between the Union and the preferred wish of the main Northern Ireland political parties to move in the direction of devolution.

Government failings in Falklands crisis

From General Sir Robert Ford (ret'd)

Sir, Looked at from the outside, but with some knowledge and experience of the workings of the machinery of government over a long period, it is difficult to come to any other conclusion than that the present tragedy in the Falkland Islands is largely the result of gross crisis mismanagement.

The well-ordered and established Defence and Overseas Policy Committee has been modified by successive Administrations since the war to meet changing conditions. Chaired by the Prime Minister and comprising the Foreign Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for Defence, the Home Secretary, and with all the Chiefs of Staff in attendance, this committee used to meet monthly with prepared papers, receiving the world intelligence picture as seen by the Joint Intelligence Committee and with ministers together having the opportunity to listen to the professional assessments and advice of the Chiefs of Staff before they made their political decisions.

As a staff officer in the Military Operations Branch of the then War Office who was seconded to the Cabinet Secretariat for the Suez operation I saw at first hand the disasters which followed when this element of the machinery of government was not strictly adhered to.

Since that day I have served four Chiefs of Defence Staff over a number of years and before my retirement was a member of the Army Board. Throughout this period the DOPC system has been steadily eroded by successive Prime Ministers and governments, with some exceptions. The result has been that the fully considered professional advice of the Chiefs of Staff, in the knowledge of the latest intelligence assessments, has not been

Plans for church unity move

From Lord Fletcher

Sir, My friend the Bishop of Norwich (April 3) does less than justice to the final report of the Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission. His purported quotation from page 84 of the report is misleading as it stands. The words in brackets do not appear in the report. The Bishop informs me that they were intended to be printed as an interpolation of his own.

It would be unfortunate if progress towards reunion were felt to depend on the precise significance to be given in a united Christendom to the primacy of the Bishop of Rome. Any form of organic unity may be a distant project, but the report registers the impressive progress made on a wide range of issues hitherto considered controversial. It emphasizes, on page 5, the bonds that unite our two churches:

We confess the same faith in the one God; we have received the same spirit; we have been baptized with the same baptism; and we preach the same Gospel.

The evidence testifies to the increasing tolerance and understanding among the laity in both churches, coupled with a real desire for reconciliation. In recent years an increasing number of Anglicans visiting the Continent attend a Catholic Mass as communicants and are not discouraged from doing so. Even in England Anglicans are welcomed as communicants at a Catholic Mass or a requiem Mass.

Conversely, though less frequent, Anglicans visiting the Continent attend a Catholic Mass as communicants and are not discouraged from doing so. Even in England Anglicans are welcomed as communicants at a Catholic Mass or a requiem Mass.

One hopes that, with the forthcoming papal visit, the momentum already established will not be lost. An initiative for a tangible step forward might well be a study of the case for a mutual reconciliation of ministries.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT FORD,
Cavalry and Guards Club,
127 Piccadilly, W1,
April 4.

Labour and deterrence

From Mr J. R. V. Coutts

Sir, Michael Foot stated quite clearly that we are right to defend the Falkland Islands citizens against the aggression of the Argentine. Yet the whole thrust of the Government's argument for the deployment of the Trident missile system is that we should be in a position to deter a would-be aggressor.

It does not require much imagination to visualise a situation in which England, deprived of any form of nuclear deterrent, could be blackmailed and occupied by a foreign Power. This situation could only be hastened if Michael Foot's "unilateral disarmament" policies were carried out.

It would seem to be the height of hypocrisy for him and other members of the Labour Party to attack this Government's lack of readiness in terms of dealing with the Falkland Islands situation, and yet propagate policies which would virtually mean 50 million British people would be left in a defenceless situation.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. V. COUTTS,
Montfield House,
Vicarage Lane, Warley,
Sandy, Bedfordshire,
April 5.

From Mr P. J. Freeman

Sir, The situation arising from the occupation by Argentinian forces of the Falkland Islands is rich in irony from the naval standpoint. In the first place, both HM ships *Endurance* and *Invincible*, which are playing central, if very different, roles in the dispute, are on the disposal list. Secondly, Argentina, of all countries, was hoping to purchase HMS *Interpret*, one of the amphibious assault ships understood to be involved, until a recent last-minute decision by the Secretary of State for Defence to retain her in service. Finally, of the major units of the Argentinian navy, its aircraft carrier is the former HMS *Venerable* and its two newest and largest destroyers are sister ships of the type-42 vessels in service with the Royal Navy.

Notwithstanding, there is a very serious lesson to be learnt for British naval policy from this unhappy episode. This is that while the Royal Navy may still retain the capability to dispatch substantial forces to the Falkland Islands, and to maintain them at sea, this is only because the Secretary of State's cuts in the Royal Navy have not yet taken full effect.

The capability under present plans, will be substantially eroded over the coming years. The Secretary of State's statement in the historic debate in the House of Commons on April 3, that we will continue to maintain a "substantial" out-of-area capability rings very hollow when it is recalled that this capability even now involves the use of our only two active aircraft carriers and the detachment from NATO commitments of a very large proportion of the fleet.

Surely this assault by Argentina is the clearest possible warning to the Government that

its current naval policy is fraught with danger. If Mr Foot fails to heed this warning then he should be replaced by a minister who will appreciate the maritime tradition and capabilities of this country and who will reverse the lamentable run-down of the Royal Navy.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. FREEMAN,
12 Tension Avenue,
Cambridge,
April 4.

From Mr Giles Chichester
Sir, Fifteen years ago my late father sailed around Cape Horn safe in the knowledge that the Falkland Islands would be a British haven should the need arise.

We must not fail our people of the Falkland Islands who have been rudely invaded. No effort should be spared diplomatically, economically or militarily to see justice done.

As a nation we cannot afford to duck this challenge, for who knows who next will regard us as a soft touch as we do? Yours faithfully,
GILES CHICHESTER,
Francis Chichester Ltd,
9 St James's Place, SW1,
April 5.

From Mrs Laura Laycock

Sir, "Somehow, some time, the Argentine forces must be induced or forced to leave the Falklands. We have the full authority of a Security Council resolution to support that proposition" (The Times April 5).

For Argentine, read Turkish; for the Falklands, read Cyprus. What price diplomacy, what price guarantees, and what price the resolve of the international community, eight years after?

Yours faithfully,
L. LAYCOCK,
250 Old Brompton Road, SW5.

From Mrs Rosemary Goring

Sir, Now that the Falkland Islanders are, for the time being at least, under Argentine rule they will presumably have to start learning the Argentine national anthem. This is a stirring composition, with a revolutionary flavour not unlike that of the Marseillaise, and the first four lines run more or less as follows:

O mortals, hear the sacred cry,
Liberty, liberty, liberty!
Hear the sound of breaking chains,
And see, enthroned, Equality.

One imagines that the Islanders will render these lines with more than ordinary fervour. Yours,
ROSEMARY GORING,
Little Wood,
Rushlake Green,
Heathfield, Sussex,
April 3.

From Sir Maxwell Joseph

Sir, The Government has succeeded in turning a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta into a Wagnerian tragedy.

Yours faithfully,
MAX JOSEPH,
1 York Gate,
Regents Park, NW1.

Channel link

From the Director General, General Council of British Shipping
Sir, If the Government stick to their announced policy and insist that the UK half of any Channel tunnel or bridge is financed by private enterprise the shipping industry can have no possible objection. We do not fear commercial competition. What we do fear is a tunnel or bridge started on a "private enterprise" basis.

Under the present project the UK half of the project gets into difficulty and costs and time-scale escalate, as by all precedent they will, the Government of the day, whatever that may be, feeling impelled to subsidise the project or support a British Rail guarantee of throughput (which comes to the same thing as subsidy), particularly if the French are determined to press on.

When the ferries and hovercraft can carry all increases in traffic, passengers and freight, the UK half of the project gets into difficulty and costs and time-scale escalate, as by all precedent they will, the Government of the day, whatever that may be, feeling impelled to subsidise the project or support a British Rail guarantee of throughput (which comes to the same thing as subsidy), particularly if the French are determined to press on.

The ferries have never been completely stopped on any day since World War II, whereas a tunnel or a bridge could be blocked by weather or engineering mishap or industrial action or sabotage. Better not start. Remember Concorde.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK SHOVELTON,
General Council of British Shipping,
30-32 St Mary Axe, EC3,
April 2.

Earlier bird

From the Reverend Canon E. F. Hudson

Sir, Reviewing Steven Runciman's *Sicilian Vespers* in today's Times (April 1) Philip Howard writes: "Cambridge today publishes the first paperback edition of Steven Runciman's famous book. But a paperback copy has been in my study for more than 20 years. Published as a Pelican by Penguin Books in 1960, it then cost 6s 1d it is worth its present price, £8.95."

I can't think that Mr Howard, or I, has been influenced by today's date. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
E. F. HUDSON,
The Rectory,
Ingatstone,
Essex,
April 1.

A goodly usage

From Mr Bernard Cox

Sir, Mrs Tullio (April 3) complains of the newspaper coming off on her hands. For many years I used old copies of *The Times* for pressing my trousers (no damping was required). However, I had to stop this habit of a lifetime when my wife showed that the ink was transferring from paper to iron and then on to my white shirt.

Perhaps one has to use properly matured copies for this purpose. Any evidence on the proper length of maturity would be welcome.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD COX,
89 Kingsfield Avenue,
North Harrow,
Middlesex,
April 3.

BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

INTERNATIONAL

SWEDEN
Workers
win
a say

The Swedish employers association, the Swedish Labour Federation and white-collar unions have reached an agreement to give about 1.5 million workers in private industry a greater say in the running of their companies.

The employees will also have a voice in the adoption of new technology, organization of work plans and economic decisions.

However, the so-called co-determination committees will not have any veto over employer's right to hire and fire, as unions demanded some years ago.

JAPAN

Japanese car registrations hit an all-time monthly high in March, going up 6.5 per cent from a year before to a total of 529,950.

Japan does not intend to reduce its self-imposed ceiling on car exports to Canada this year, Mr. Shintaro Abe, the International Trade and Industry Minister, announced yesterday. He said he would recommend that exports be kept to the 1981 level.

AUSTRALIA

Employment in Australia fell in February, reversing the previous 12 months' trend, according to estimates issued by the Statistics Bureau. The bureau said civilian employment (seasonally adjusted) fell to 5,412,800 in February, down 5,000 or 0.1 per cent from January. In February last year, employment increased by 23,100 or 0.4 per cent.

Despite the fall from January, employment in the latest month remained at 76,600 or 1.2 per cent higher than a year earlier.

Mr. Nils Aalund, Swedish Industry Minister, who is touring Western Australia's mining operation areas, urged Australian companies to invest in Sweden to force their way into the European market.

UNITED STATES

International coal shipments will more than double in the 1980s — from 192 million tonnes in 1980 to 425 million tonnes by 1990, according to National Economic Research Associates, an American firm of consulting economists. It predicted that coal imports by Europe will rise by 1 per cent a year above the general rate of inflation between 1985 and 1990.

WEST GERMANY

West German crude steel production totalled 3.88 million metric tons in March, up 11.3 per cent from February. Pig iron output rose 12.1 per cent to 3.82 million tonnes.

West German crude steel production rose 3.1 per cent in the first quarter of 1982 over the same quarter of 1981, according to the regional bureau of the federal statistics office said in Düsseldorf.

The West German manufacturing industry index of incoming orders fell by a provisional 1.3 per cent seasonally adjusted in February, after being unchanged in January.

FRANCE

ETPM, a subsidiary of the French Vallourec steel pipe group, has been awarded a contract worth \$30m (£51m) by the Norwegian state oil company Statoil to lay a pipeline in the North Sea. It is one of the biggest orders of its type.

BELGIUM

Belgium unemployment at the end of March remained at a record high of 10.9 per cent. The only big change was a decline of 2,000 in the number of young jobless.

The trade deficit of the Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union widened sharply in January to a provisional Bel Fr 30,800m from Bel Fr 1,800m in December. The national institute of statistics reported in Brussels, January marked a worsening of the economic union's trading position, which had improved in the end of last year after a record deficit of Bel Fr 51,600m was recorded in August.

UGANDA

Uganda will request the potential donors at a World Bank meeting in Paris on May 17 for help in its \$600m (about £37m) recovery plan. "We are talking the international community help us now. If you do, in two years we will be on the other side of the counter," Mr. Ephraim Kumuuru, acting finance minister, said in Kampala yesterday.

Frances Williams assesses our competitiveness

The international
race Britain
cannot win

Last year witnessed a rare if not unique event in recent British economic history. We managed, in a small way, to improve our international competitive position by dint of our own domestic labour, instead of relying entirely as in the past on the depreciation of sterling to keep British goods in the running on world markets.

In 1981 lower pay settlements and a surge in productivity produced a rise in wage costs per unit of output of only 2 1/2 per cent. Britain's competitive position since the mid-1960s when wage costs with a rise of 2.5 per cent in the year to mid-1980. By contrast, the latest international comparisons show unit wage costs rising at a yearly rate of 3 per cent in Japan, 4 per cent in Germany, 11 per cent in the United States and 14 per cent in France.

The real wage has been to boost British competitiveness by perhaps 2 per cent or so, in addition to the gain from a 10 per cent drop in sterling over the year, enabling us to claw back perhaps a quarter of the 50 per cent competitive disadvantage suffered during 1979 and 1980.

Government ministers are losing no opportunity to reiterate their message that continued low pay settlements and greater productivity are essential if workers are to price themselves into jobs in international markets.

Will that message be heeded? And even if it is, will Britain reap the benefits? On wages, the signals are unimpressive if not alarming. Pay settlements in the 1981-82 wage round are averaging about 7 per cent in manufacturing, the most internationally exposed sector of the economy.

The index of competitiveness used measures the rise in labour costs per unit of output in this country compared with our competitors, expressed in a common currency.

This is just 1 to 2 per cent below settlement rates in the previous pay round, despite steadily climbing unemployment and continued depressed output.

The majority of economic forecasters believe that the next pay round will see a higher level of settlements, perhaps of about 8-10 per cent. This would have earnings rising at 10 to 12 per cent over the year.

The forecasters point out that industrial output is

expected to pick up quite sharply later this year; that unemployment is likely to stabilize or rise very slowly; and that redundancy, and that company profits are predicted to increase rapidly, by anything between 20 and 30 per cent in 1982 with similar improvements in the running on world markets.

All these factors are likely to encourage workers to press for higher pay to compensate for the drop in living standards over the past year or so.

Information collected by Incomes Data Services, a private company which monitors pay, reveals that a few companies, in better financial shape than last year, have agreed to somewhat higher pay deals this time around.

Though companies may be disinclined to be generous on wages — the higher profits expected to pick up quite sharply later this year; that unemployment is likely to stabilize or rise very slowly; and that redundancy, and that company profits are predicted to increase rapidly, by anything between 20 and 30 per cent in 1982 with similar improvements in the running on world markets.

Most economic forecasters believe the next pay round will see a higher level of settlements, perhaps of round 9 to 10 per cent.

will not be enough to finance stockbuilding and more investment, let alone high pay settlements — they may find it hard to resist workers' claims for some modest relaxation. If economic recovery persists in subsequent years, the pressures on pay are certain to grow stronger.

The Government, not surprisingly, is taking a more optimistic line. Treasury economists, who expect that the nation will be into single figures shortly and could fall to 7 1/2 per cent by the middle of next year, believe that workers are unlikely to get pay rises significantly above the inflation rate. (In the present round and the last, wage deals averaged about 3 per cent below the rise in prices.)

Some small rise in earnings next year would not upset the improvement in competitiveness if it could be covered by increased productivity. But it is not at all certain that last year's impressive performance can be repeated. In 1981, output per person in manufacturing rose by more than 10 per cent and output per person-hour by over 8 per cent to surpass the peak levels reached before the recession began in the spring of 1979.

This is a bigger rise than experience of past recessions would have suggested and it

began unusually in the cycle, when output was still falling. This, plus anecdotal evidence about new attitudes and working practices on the shop floor, has produced talk of a productivity "miracle" — the suggestion that the long-run trend of productivity has shifted upwards from the sluggish 1 1/2 per cent or so seen for much of the 1970s.

Others take the view that recent rapid productivity growth is temporary, and unlikely to be sustained. They argue that the figures have been boosted artificially by closure or mothballing of less productive capacity to give a once-and-for-all productivity boost. And they point out that in past recessions labour "shaken out" has been "shaken in" again once recovery is underway, dampening previous productivity growth.

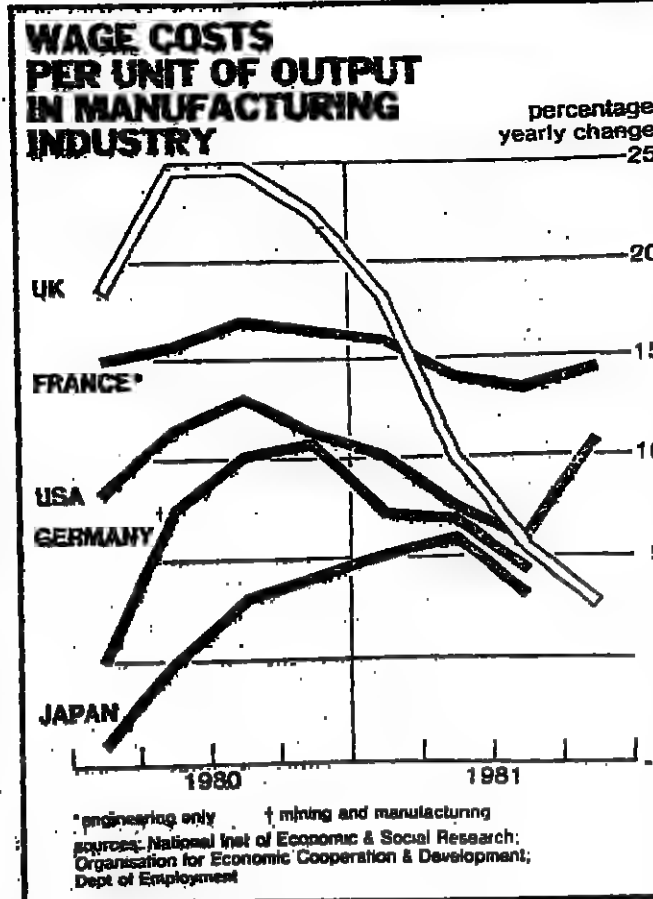
The Treasury counters this by arguing that continuing competitive pressures, and companies' expectations "of only moderate economic recovery", will keep up the pressure to hold costs down and by implication to be cautious about recruiting labour.

We shall not know who is right until output recovers in earnest. But no one is suggesting that last year's productivity gains can be repeated. Over the next few months as job losses continue while output picks up, productivity is likely to go on rising, though at a lower pace. But in the longer term even believers in miracles cannot expect sustained productivity growth above European levels between 3 and 4 per cent a year.

This alone would be twice as good as Britain's performance over the past few years. Another problem area is the scene abroad. Britain can only improve her competitive position without recourse to devaluation if her unit labour costs are rising more slowly than those of international rivals.

Last year she may have succeeded. But there are signs that in other countries too the rise in labour costs may be slowing down.

Over the past year or so recession, sales, marketing and manpower.



% change	UK	US	Japan	France	Germany
Unit wage costs 1975-1980	89	36	0	45	17
Latest quarter 1980-81	2.8	10.8	2.9	14.4	4.2
Output per person-hour 1975-80	7	15	42	31	16
Latest quarter 1980-81	8.3	4.4	4.3	-4.6	3.5

The increase in unit labour costs elsewhere has thus not been as dramatic as in Britain. But economic recovery, which will be boosted by the recent drop in oil prices, means that productivity is beginning to improve in most countries. Even if it only gets back on trend — and it should do better than that in the early stages of recovery — this would mean productivity growth of 2 1/2 per cent a year in the United States, 3 per cent in West Germany, 4 per cent in France and 7 1/2 per cent in Japan.

All this serves to demonstrate how fast Britain has run to stand still in the international race for competitiveness. If our main trading partners, with their better productivity records

Airing grievances, dispelling rumours

AT WORK:
INDUSTRIAL
DRAMA

By Rupert Morris

Enthusiasm for worker participation — or industrial democracy, if you prefer — has been at its best since the Bullock Report and widespread recommendations in 1977. The Post Office's decision to scrap its worker-director scheme two years ago was a further setback.

Old-fashioned management and trade unions suspicious of schemes that smelt of collaboration have combined to prevent isolated initiatives leading to any general move towards greater employee involvement.

Among the isolated success stories have been profit-sharing schemes like the one operated by British Petroleum, which claims a 60 per cent response to its offer of two shares for the price of one to any employee with more than four years' service. But other large firms, such as GEC, are opposed to such schemes, arguing that it is virtually impossible to relate individual employees' performance to the company's share value and that consequently employee shareholding schemes provide no real productivity incentive.

At a more modest level however, there is a form of worker participation which has grown out of Bullock and been adopted by a sprinkling of medium-sized firms with some success. It is the company council.

Proprietary Perfumes (PPL) of Ashford, Kent, a subsidiary of Unilever, introduced such a company council in 1976. There was no pressure for trade union recognition, and industrial relations were calm. They have remained so ever since, and Mr. Geoffrey Roberts, PPL chairman, has been able to spread the word about company councils to his occasionally envious colleagues on the CBI Kent Committee, of which he is this year's chairman.

It is probably impossible to know how much of the good



Talking it over — the company council at Proprietary Perfumes

relations that seem to reign at PPL are attributable to the existence of the company council. But PPL is indisputably a successful and growing company — its turnover last year was £57m which has never had any work stoppage among its 500 employees.

The council's constitution, which runs to six footlong pages, deals at length with consultation. But it rapidly becomes clear that the prime object is communication. PPL's work force has shown little inclination to take an active part in management policy making.

Mr. Roberts said: "We needed to make sure that people felt involved in what was happening, at all levels, both management and non-management. It's like a family, where you know that if you stop talking to each other you are in trouble."

The employees take it very seriously. Their representatives are elected from the various divisions — perfume, works, research and development, commercial and marketing — to serve on the council for two years. The level of voting is high, with 85 per cent taking part. Candidates and their supporters make posters and rosettes which clutter the factory at election time.

The eight-strong council meets every five months, with monthly meetings of divisional committees (also elected), being held. The council, in accordance with the constitution, can discuss

budgets, balance sheets, investment trends, sales, marketing and manpower.

In spite of all the democratic paraphernalia, however, it is an essentially paternalistic system. Mr. Roberts did not like that particular word but admitted that the degree of consultation depended entirely on how much he, as chairman of the company and of the council, was prepared to divulge.

Conversations with Mr. Roberts and three other members of the council did not reveal many major developments which had been inspired by the council, apart from the establishment of a dental centre on site, canteen facilities, car parks, rest rooms and other practical matters were among the most common items for discussion.

Major policy decisions are often presented to the council as fait accompli. "But at least we'll know why," said Andrew Atfield, the company accountant and a council member.

"I think the chairman would be a fool to tell us the whole truth all the time," said John Church, council member for the compounding division.

Mr. Church said the council's existence did not stop the management taking occasional wrong decisions, which could, with consultation, have been avoided. The installation of a particular machine in his department had been a case in

point, he said. But council members agreed that though it had its faults, the council did provide a forum for the airing of grievances, and the dispelling of rumours and for general discussion which made an important contribution to morale.

Next month PPL will be integrated with the flavours and fragrances division of its parent company. The council will continue to operate at the Ashford site.

Surveys of company councils and other forms of industrial democracy have been unable to show any clear trends. The British Institute of Management, for instance, produced a survey last year in which 93 per cent of responding firms claimed to have established, or to be establishing, worker participation.

The CBI though produced a more comprehensive report on 413 companies which employed a total of more than three million people. This report showed that only 17 per cent of company chairmen chaired company or works councils and only 17 per cent of firms with such councils had established them in the last three years — indicating a slow rate of change.

But last month, in the week after Sir Raymond Pennock, CBI President, argued in the columns of *The Times* for more positive moves to involve workers, the Confederation was taking a rather more optimistic view. This optimism was

based on an independent survey of the employees of the same 413 companies which showed more than half the workforce felt their managements had become less secretive and more inclined to consultation. Only 29 per cent said there had been no improvement.

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	Actual	P/E Ratio
130 100 Ass Brit Ind CULS	128	-2	10.0	7.8	—	—
75 62 Ainsworth Group	73	-1	4.7	6.4	11.6	16.0
51 33 Armange & Rhodes	44	-1	4.3	9.8	3.7	8.3
205 187 Bardon Hill	199	-2	9.7	4.9	9.7	11.8
107 100 CCL 11% Conv Pref	106	-1	15.7	14.8	—	—
104 61 Deborah Services	61	-1	6.0	9.8	3.0	5.7
131 97 Frank Horsell	125	—	6.4	5.1	11.3	23.1
83 39 Frederick Parker	76	—	6.4	8.4	3.9	7.4
78 46 George Blair	56	-1	7.3	7.6	6.9	10.4
102 93 Ind Proc Castings	108	-1	15.7	14.5	—	—
109 160 Isis Con Prod	96	-1	7.0	7.3	3.0	6.8
113 84 Jackson Group	115	—	8.7	7.6	8.4	10.6
334 242 Robert Jenkins	212	-2	31.3	12.9	3.4	8.6
64 51 Scruttons "A"	63	-1	5.3	8.4	9.7	9.0
222 159 Torday & Carlisle	159	—	10.7	6.7	5.1	9.5
15 10 Twinstock Ord	137	-1	—	—	—	—
89 66 Twinstock 15% ULS	80	—	15.0	18.8	—	—
44 25 Unilever Holdings	25	—	3.0	12.0	4.5	7.6
103 73 Walter Alexander	79	-1	6.4	8.1	5.2	9.3
263 212 W. S. Yeates	229ad	—	14.5	6.3	6.0	12.0

Securities valued at middle market prices

Base
Lending
Rates

ARN Bank	13%
Barclays	13%
BCCI	13%
Consolidated Crds	13%
C. Hoare & Co	13%
Lloyds Bank	13%
Midland Bank	13%
Nat Westminster	13%
TSB	13%
Williams & Glyn's	13%

* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000 11.75%, £10,000 up to £50,000 11%, £50,000 and over 11 1/2%.

Business Editor

The pressure
stays on

For those who have been advocating a lower exchange rate, sterling below £1.75 and heading fast for DM4.20 may seem like a reasonable start. But even if they were happy with a small devaluation, the authorities are inclined to see silver linings on the present foreign exchange clouds.

Indeed, the far more pressing thought must be how to arrest a much more serious run on the pound should it show signs of developing in the days and weeks ahead. Money market rates have been relatively slow to respond — largely thanks to a generous supply of liquidity from the Bank — though period rates were notably firmer yesterday and bill dealing rates clearly reflected nervousness on the part of the houses given that the forecast shortage was no more than £50m. Presumably, the Bank will want to hold off taking interest rate action as long as possible. But if it chooses to play it that way, the action when it does come will almost certainly have to be of the crisis rather than the tinkering variety.

Ironically, yesterday's preliminary estimate of a March money supply (sterling M3) rise of only 1/2 per cent was better than generally expected.

Although domestic money supply developments are hardly likely to be a major factor in foreign exchange market thinking at the moment, the figures are in any case not necessarily as good as they look.

Without the benefit of the collection of a further £1,000m of back tax, sterling M3 might well have grown by closer to 1 per cent.

Bank lending to the private sector is once again the villain of the piece, probably rising by at least £2,000m. The London Clearers estimate the underlying increase in the lending at £1,600m. But that will represent some movement by borrowers out of overdrafts; and the Bank's own massive purchases of commercial bills may well be offset by a large fall in discount house balance sheets and non-bank holdings of bills.

Hammerson

Tidying up

The wish to tidy up the portfolio is the excuse given by Hammerson Property and Investment Trust chairman, Mr. Sydney Mason for asking shareholders to dig into their pockets for £70.5m. The bulk (£55.9m) of cash from the 3 for 10 rights issue is being used to buy out minority interests in some of the group's properties, including the Brent Cross shopping centre. The remainder is earmarked for extending Hammerson's Bow Valley Square development in Calgary, Canada.

For the year to December the group's gross rental income was £50.8m, up a quarter, and the Mitre House and Brent Cross deals should be worth an additional £3m in revenue. Post-tax profits last year were up by almost a half at just over £15m.

The market shuddered slightly on yesterday's rights news, and with the ordinary and "A" closing at 600p and 585p respectively, the group is capitalised at £282m.

Estimated net asset value per share pre-issue is put at about 800p. Following the issue, this is likely to be diluted to about 725p, though some brokers are forecasting a net asset value of 760p from the resulting marriage values.

Mr. Mason is at long last complying with the new accounting standard for property investment companies and is underlining the internal revaluation of the group portfolio this year with a promise that an independent valuation will be conducted within the next five years. This may finally end the estimates of the company's true worth which have been floating around the market for years.

Bowater
Asset backing

Bowater has bettered market forecasts of £100m pre-tax profits for 1981, turning in £106.7m. The group's share price also bucked the market's downward trend, rising to 239p despite the failure to increase the year's dividend from 16.42p gross. But behind the apparent gloss, the figures are not wildly encouraging and seem to point towards barely improved profitability in the present year. A prior factor in the profits increase — up from £85m in last time — is the favourable sterling/dollar exchange rate.

North American paper and pulp continues to contribute the major part of the group's profits and its asset backing for the share. Bowater expects it to go on doing so for the foreseeable future, but two major problems are looming.

The slow-down of the United States economy and renegotiation of Canadian labour contracts in the present year — traditionally a tough proposition — have acted as antidotes to enthusiasm about Bowater's 1982 prospects.

Newsprint operations — which account for between 35 and 40 per cent of group trading profits — are said to be holding up well, with the main problem one of overcapacity rather than poor demand. Newsprint stocks are however understood to be around double their normal level. The pulp operations are near the bottom of the cycle, and the hope is that demand should be to improve by the end of the year, depending on the strength of an economic recovery.

As for the United Kingdom operations, 1982 may be slightly less disastrous than last year, but the profitability of British and European sector fell by £6m, but 1981's rationalization exercise should reduce costs.

About £7m went on cutting back the size of the workforce, and Heavy loss maker waters also disposed of. But trading is still bumping along the bottom with no sign of sustained recovery.

A yield of 6.9 per cent is hardly exciting without speculative takeover support. Current cost share holders' funds of £819m make Bowater a large lump to swallow — but then the current market value of the group is a rather more modest £375m.

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The Over-the-Counter Market

1981/82	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	Actual	P/E Ratio
130 100 Ass Brit Ind CULS	128	-2	10.0	7.8	—	—	—
75 62 Ainsworth Group	73	-1	4.7	6.4	11.6	16.0	—
51 33 Armange & Rhodes	44	-1	4.3	9.8	3.7	8.3	—
205 187 Bardon Hill	199	-2	9.7	4.9	9.7	11.8	—
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222 159 Torday & Carlisle	159	—	10.7	6.7	5.1	9.5	—
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44 25 Unilever Holdings	25	—	3.0	12.0	4.5	7.6	—
103 73 Walter Alexander	79	-1	6.4	8.1	5.2	9.3	—
263 212 W. S. Yeates	229ad	—	14.5	6.3	6.0	12.0	—

WALL STREET

OVERSEAS COMPANIES

New York, April 6. — Share

New York's Metropolitan area prompted the planned early hours of the New York Mercantile Exchange and nearby other commodity markets. Volume was light.

The Dow Jones Average was down by 2.47 points to 832.85 at about 11 am (New York time).

Declines outnumbered advances 570-378 among the 1,426 issues crossing the tape.

The first-hour turnover of about 10m shares compared with

The Wall Street and Canadian stock prices in the table relate to Monday's close, because of the shift to British Summer time. This will continue until Eastern Daylight Time begins in the 11th day of the month.

13.4m shares on Monday.
Prices were slightly higher in moderate trading of American Stock Exchange issues.
American Telephone & Telegraph was the most active issue up 3/4 to \$55.

Apr 1	Apr 2		Apr 3	Apr 2
12	18	Phillips Petrol	127	127
15	20	Phillips 66	130	130
20	24	PFO Ind	132	132
24	28	Procter Gamble	133	133
21	25	Pum Sta & Gas	135	135
23	27	Raychem	136	136
25	29	RCA Corp	215	215
26	30	Republisc Sted	216	216
27	31	Ryanair Ind	476	476
28	32	Reynolds Metal	477	477
29	33	Rockwell Int	276	276
30	34	Royal Dutch	329	329
31	35	Safeway	28	28
32	36	S. K. Paper	29	29
33	37	Santa Fe Ind	150	150
34	38	SCA	151	151
35	39	Schlumberger	152	152
36	40	Scott Paper	153	153
37	41	Seagram	154	154
38	42	Sealed Air	155	155

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This table is published on Wednesday and Saturday

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هذه أمثلا

BELL'S
SCOTCH WHISKY
BELL'S

The Wall Street and Canadian stock prices in the table reflect Monday's close, because of the shift to British Summer Time. This will continue until Eastern Daylight Time begins in the United States.

13.4m shares on Monday. Prices were slightly higher in moderate trading of American stock Exchange issues.

American Telephone & Telegraph was the most active issue up 5¢ to \$35.

APR APR

[illegible]

ATHLETICS
Danger of
sponsors
vanishing

By Richard Sirena
A reminder that some sports might be frightened away from the British 1982 financial year, announced, it will be the first year that they have been the sport and their contribution to the economy has been £100,000.

pond

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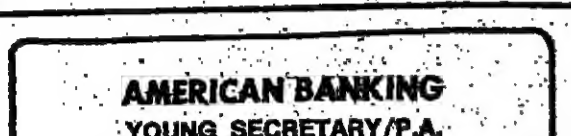
La creme de la creme

Secretary— Remy Martin

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Residential Property by Baron Phillips

Rates: a demand for reform

The new rates demands have been arriving and no matter how much we may complain about the way that councils spend our money, we have no option but to pay.

In the past two years the Government has cut back its rate support grant and come down hard on high spending authorities.

The entire system needs major overhaul. The last revaluation of rates and rateable values took place in 1972. Despite promises from successive governments to find a more equitable system, very little has been done.

There have been suggestions to change completely the existing rating system in England and Wales (Scotland has a separate system.) One of the most popular has been to scrap the present structure and substitute a local sales tax, a method favored by a number of American cities and states—or even a poll tax.

In Britain many believe that a local tax would be difficult to raise, involving greater town hall bureaucracy, and would hit those who could least afford to pay.

The Government is aware of the need to reform the rating system but, like its predecessors, is loath to rush into action. At the moment it is taking evidence from interested groups for its Green Paper, Alternatives to Domestic Rates.

One of the latest submissions has been made by the Rating and Valuation Association, which has misgivings about a local sales or income tax or a poll tax. Instead, it strongly supports proposals for reforming the existing domestic rating system.

One major suggestion the RVA is making is that rates should be based on capital values rather than the present notional rental value of a property. It also suggests that an allowance for domestic rates should be made against national income tax.

The switch to capital values is an interesting one. Several countries, including the USA, have already adopted this system. The level of rates you paid would be tied directly to the real value of your property. Councils would then have to fix the percentage rate at which the tax was levied.

One obvious snag would be the assessment of individual properties' capital values and who would actually undertake such an assessment. The houses in one street might be broadly similar but there can be big variations in their market value.

Allowing the cost of rates against income tax would probably get a cool reception from the Government. A large enough political row is brewing over the deduction of mortgage interest payments against income tax. It seems highly unlikely that any government would seriously consider tax deductible rates.

Certainly there is a need for some reform of the present system. It is out of date and out of line with property values.



The Salisbury office of Strutt & Parker is selling this charming four-bedroom cottage in the village of Corston, near Warrington, Cheshire. It is believed to date from the mid-seventeenth century and is Grade 2 listed. Built of Chulmark stone, it has been recently modernized. The agents are asking £85,000.

For the first time in virtually a year the country's leading building societies are talking about rising property prices. The latest bulletin from the Leeds Permanent predicts an increase of as much as 10 per cent during the current year. It says: "Although the private housing market is not yet buoyant the evidence suggests that a new confidence is returning. While economic ups and downs affect the buying power of every family, it seems that the desire for those people who want to own their own property is beginning to reassert itself."

But the society's chief general manager, Mr. Stanley Walker, warns that the market is unlikely to improve immediately. He says there is still a large pool of unsold houses, especially in the middle price range, which will have to be cleared before prices start rising substantially.

These sentiments are also expressed by Mr. Clive Thornton, chief general manager of the Abbey National. He says: "Predictions of a boom are certainly premature and not borne out by our experience. We expect a gentle recovery during the year, as house prices have fallen well below the level of wage and general price increases."

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COUNTRY PROPERTIES

Humberts

Dorset
Blandford 2 miles. Salisbury & Bournemouth 20 miles. Important early 18th Century rectory, requiring renovation, in potential secluded grounds. 2 reception rooms, 4 principal bedrooms, 4 secondary bedrooms, bathroom, separate w.c., kitchen and tiled offices. Garage/stable block. Cubiclains. Garden. Freehold with about 22 acres. For Sale by Tender—closing date 24 May 1982. Details: Greyhound House, Market Place, Blandford. Tel: (0258) 52343.

Wiltshire
Blandford 2 miles. Salisbury & Bournemouth 20 miles. A beautifully modernized detached cottage of great character. 2 reception rooms, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, garage, central heating, garage, garden. Freehold with about 22 acres. For Sale by Tender—closing date 24 May 1982. Details: Greyhound House, Market Place, Blandford. Tel: (0258) 52343.

Wiltshire
Woodborough 3 miles (Paddington 1 hour). A pleasantly situated period village house. 2 reception rooms, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, garage, central heating, garage, garden. Freehold with about 22 acres. For Sale by Tender—closing date 24 May 1982. Details: Greyhound House, Market Place, Blandford. Tel: (0258) 52343.

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

6.40 Open University: Water Molecules 7.05 Evolution of Molluscs 7.30 Neurophysiology 7.55 Close Down 9.45 The Wombles narrated by Bernard Cribbins (r) 9.50 Jackanory. Eleanor Bron with the author of the book 'The Wombles' (r) 10.05 Cartoons The Banana Spills (r) 10.35 Why Don't You...? 11.00 Close Down 12.30 News After Noon with Richard Whitmore and Moira Stuart 12.57 Regional News (London and SE only) Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles 1.00 Peckinpah on the set. Salman Rushdie talks about his award-winning novel 'Midnight's Children' which is being launched in paperback today 1.45 Over the Moon (r) 2.00 Golf: Men v Women. Sally Little plays Greg Norman (r) 2.15 The Painted Boots (1984) starring Jenny Landis and Bill Blewett. The story of two canal families 3.53 Regional news (not London)

3.55 Play School. For the under fives (shown earlier on BBC 2)

4.20 Cartoons: Scooby Doo Where Are You? (r). Take Hart. Tony Hart designs an heraldic shield.

5.00 John Craven's Newsworld.

5.05 A Little Silver Trumpet. Episode two and Mrs Jessop is heartbroken after having the precious tin box containing Jim Ashburn's savings stolen.

5.40 News with Michael Sullivan

6.00 South East at Six

6.25 Newsline.

6.45 Rolf Harris Cartoon Time. Four funnies: Tom and Jerry in Jerry and the Lion and Sleepy Time Possum; Foghorn Leghorn in Feather Bluster; and Bugs Bunny in Hare-Aban Nights.

7.15 Film: Jesus Christ Superstar (1973) starring Ted Neeley, Carl Anderson and Yvonne Elliman. The screen version of the Tim Rice/Andrew Lloyd Webber rock opera. A group of young people travel to the Holy Land and act out the events that led to the Crucifixion. The director is Norman Jewison.

BBC 2

6.40 Open University: Maths: Completeness. 7.05 Magic and Shakespeare's Plays. 7.55 Microbes and the Microscope. 7.55 Close Down. 10.20 Gharbar. A magazine for Asian viewers (r). 10.45 Close Down. 11.00 Play School. For the under fives presented by Sarah Long and Stuart McGugan. The story is The Little Green Frog by Chloe Ashcroft. 11.25 Close Down. 12.30 News After Noon. 12.57 Regional News (London and SE only) Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles 1.00 Peckinpah on the set. Salman Rushdie talks about his award-winning novel 'Midnight's Children' which is being launched in paperback today 1.45 Over the Moon (r) 2.00 Golf: Men v Women. Sally Little plays Greg Norman (r) 2.15 The Painted Boots (1984) starring Jenny Landis and Bill Blewett. The story of two canal families 3.53 Regional news (not London)

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ITV/LONDON

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Radio 4

6.00 News. 6.10 Morning Today. 6.30 Today. 6.50 Yesterday in Parliament. 8.57 Weather and Travel. 9.00 News. 9.05 Midweek: Henry Kelly. 10.00 News. 10.02 Gardeners Question Time with Chris. 10.30 Daily Service. 10.45 The Stranger. A reading for Holy Week. 11.00 News and Travel. 11.05 Baker's Dozen. 12.00 News. 12.02 You and Yours. 12.27 The Other Side of Silence (new series) A serial by Ted Hughes in eight episodes. 1.00 The World at One. 1.10 The Archers. 2.00 News. 2.02 Women's Hour. 3.00 News and Travel. 3.02 The Serang. 3.47 Time for Verse. Charles Matz concludes his discussion on the nature of poetry as sound. 4.00 News. 4.02 Sweet Spring. Ed Jones notes the changing life on the land. 4.10 A Lady's Life in the Rocks. The fascinating adventures of Isabella Bird as recounted by letters to her sister. 4.40 Story Time: 'The Last Resort' by Pamela Hansford Johnson. 5.00 News. 5.55 Weather and Programme News. 6.00 News and Financial Report. 6.30 Bank. Mike Goes into... 7.00 News. 7.02 The Archers. 7.20 A Good Night Out. Laurie Taylor participates in a Medieval Banquet.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News. 7.05 Your Midweek Choice. Record requests: Vaughan Williams, Fantasia Op. 103. 8.00 News. 8.05 Your Midweek Choice (continued). 9.00 News. 9.05 This Week's Composer: Chopin, records. 10.00 Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. Concert. Mendelssohn, Tchaikovsky, Sibelius. 11.45 Choral and Piano Recital: Hoddinott, Egon Wellesz. 12.00 News. 1.05 Concert Hall: Cello and piano recital, direct from Broadcasting House. London. Beethoven, Brahms, Ben-Haim, Jean Cocteau, David Popper. 2.00 News.

Radio 2

5.00 Colin Berry. 7.30 Ray Moore. 10.00 Jimmy Young. 12.00 Gloria Hunniford. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 4.00 David Hamilton. 5.45 News and Sport. 6.00 John Dunn. 8.00 Alan Dell. 8.30 Among Your Souvenirs. (new series) 9.15 Sengul Serenade. (new series) 10.00 You've Got to Be the Joking. 10.30 Hubert Gregg (new series). 11.00 Brian Matthew. (from Monday) 11.45 Folk on the Road. (new series) 12.00 News. 1.05 Concert Hall: Cello and piano recital, direct from Broadcasting House. London. Beethoven, Brahms, Ben-Haim, Jean Cocteau, David Popper. 2.00 News.

Radio 1

5.00 As Radio 2. 7.00 Mike Read. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.30 Dave Lee Travis. 12.00 Paul Burnett. 1.30 Steve Wright. 5.00 Peter Powell. 7.00 Growing Up in Northern Ireland. 8.00 David Jensen. 10.00 John Peel in Liverpool. 12.00 Close.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave 648 kHz (6480) at the following times GMT: 6.00 am News. 7.00 am News. 7.30 am News. 8.00 am News. 8.30 am News. 9.00 am News. 9.30 am News. 10.00 am News. 10.30 am News. 11.00 am News. 11.30 am News. 12.00 pm News. 12.30 pm News. 1.00 pm News. 1.30 pm News. 2.00 pm News. 2.30 pm News. 3.00 pm News. 3.30 pm News. 4.00 pm News. 4.30 pm News. 5.00 pm News. 5.30 pm News. 6.00 pm News. 6.30 pm News. 7.00 pm News. 7.30 pm News. 8.00 pm News. 8.30 pm News. 9.00 pm News. 9.30 pm News. 10.00 pm News. 10.30 pm News. 11.00 pm News. 11.30 pm News. 12.00 pm News. 12.30 pm News. 1.00 pm News. 1.30 pm News. 2.00 pm News. 2.30 pm News. 3.00 pm News. 3.30 pm News. 4.00 pm News. 4.30 pm News. 5.00 pm News. 5.30 pm News. 6.00 pm News. 6.30 pm News. 7.00 pm News. 7.30 pm News. 8.00 pm News. 8.30 pm News. 9.00 pm News. 9.30 pm News. 10.00 pm News. 10.30 pm News. 11.00 pm News. 11.30 pm News. 12.00 pm News. 12.30 pm News. 1.00 pm News. 1.30 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